はがねのれんきんじゅつし

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

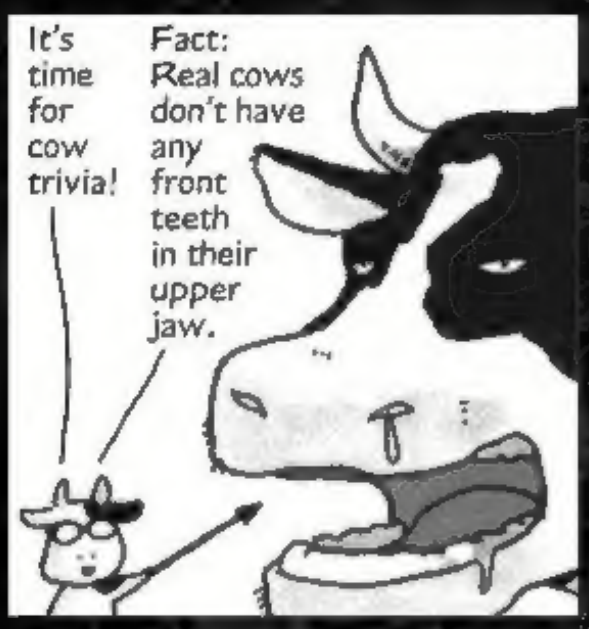
11

GANGAN COMICS

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™

11

Story and art by
Hiromu Arakawa



True story – when I went to get a shiatsu massage after making my last deadline, the masseuse said to me, "Your right shoulder is really tense." I almost replied to him, "That's because it's auto-mail!" because I was sleepy and my head was in a daze as I was thinking about some ideas for the next chapter.

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2005

Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga *Stray Dog*. Her series *Fullmetal Alchemist* debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology *Shonen Gangan*.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

鋼の錬金術師

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11

荒川弘

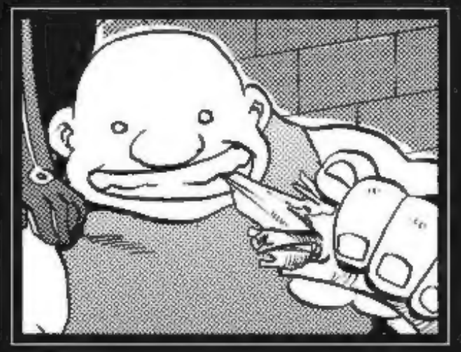
HIROMU ARAKAWA

鋼の錬金術師
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

□ ウィンリィ・ロックベル
Winry Rockbell

□ スカー
Scar



□ グラトニー
Gluttony

□ キング・ブラッドレイ
King Bradley

□ リン・ヤオ
Lin Yao

□ メイ・チャン
May Chang

□ アルフォンス・エルリック
Alphonse Elric

□ エドワード・エルリック
Edward Elric

□ アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング
Alex Louis Armstrong

□ ロイ・マスタング
Roy Mustang

OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric Brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward becomes a state alchemist, serving the military on deadly missions. Now, the two brothers roam the world in search of the Philosopher's Stone, the legendary substance with the power to restore what they have lost…

The Elric Brothers aren't the only state alchemists on a mission. Colonel Roy Mustang and his team have been following many of the same leads as young Edward in an attempt to uncover a conspiracy within the military that could go all the way to the top. Using Barry the Chopper and the wrongfully accused Maria Ross as bait, Roy manages to track the Homunculi to their underground base. In a harrowing battle, Roy destroys the beautiful and cunning Lust once and for all, but at a great cost–Jean Havoc is left paralyzed and Maria Ross must remain in exile. Meanwhile, Ed returns home to Resembool where he sees the most shocking sight imaginable–**his father**.

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WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "STILL"? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

MY BIG BROTHER ***STILL*** HASN'T SHOWN UP IN RESEMBOOL !?

WHAT !?

THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE, AL!

IT'S TER-RIBLE !

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL PAY!

WHAT !?

WHERE CAN HE BE? HE'S TAKING SO LONG, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF MONEY TO PAY THE HOTEL BILL...

DAD'S THERE !?

...WHA...?

WHILE ED NEVER SHOWED UP, ***SOME-ONE ELSE*** DID...

WHAT ?

Chapter 42
The Father Standing Before a Grave

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

HOHEN-
HEIM...

EDWARD...?

VAN
HOHEN-
HEIM
!!

WHOO-

OOOOO

OOO

PINAKO TOLD ME...

YOU TRIED TO TRANS-MUTE A HUMAN BEING, DIDN'T YOU?

WHY PHRASE IT LIKE A QUESTION?

YOU'VE... GOTTEN BIGGER?

THE YOUNGEST!

THE SMALLEST STATE ALCHEMIST IN HISTORY, RIGHT?

YOU'VE BECOME QUITE FAMOUS IN CENTRAL CITY.

HOW CAN YOU CALL YOUR OWN *FATHER* A BASTARD?

YOU BASTARD! HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE HERE AFTER ALL THIS TIME!!

...

WHY DID YOU DIE...?

WHY DO YOU THINK!? BECAUSE OF THE HARDSHIP YOU PUT HER THROUGH!!

TRISHA.

IF WE WEREN'T STANDING IN FRONT OF MOM'S GRAVE, I WOULD SLUG YOU.

"BASTARD" IS BETTER THAN A BASTARD LIKE YOU DESERVES!

TRISHA

DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD SHE STRUGGLED TO RAISE US TWO KIDS ON HER OWN!!?

WE PROMISED ONE ANOTHER.

WHAT!? A LITTLE WHILE *LONGER?* SO YOU WERE PLANNING TO PUT HER THROUGH *MORE* HARDSHIP!!?

JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER... A LITTLE WHILE...

WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE!!?

I DON'T CARE IF YOU DID COME BACK— THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT FOR YOU HERE!!

WHAT ARE YOU? AN ALIEN?

THIS CONVERSATION IS GOING NOWHERE!!

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LEFT *US!*

MUTTER MUTTER

WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND?

..NOTHING LEFT OF IT.

THERE'S..

WHY DID YOU BURN IT DOWN?

THAT'S RIGHT... MY HOUSE...

NO, IT'S NOT.

IT'S A *SYMBOL* OF OUR RESOLVE.

I DON'T NEED A PLACE TO GO HOME TO.

I MADE UP MY MIND NEVER TO TURN BACK.

YOU DID IT...

..BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF YOUR MISTAKE!

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ERASE ALL TRACES OF YOUR ACTIONS, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM THE PAINFUL MEMORIES..

IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM A CHILD WHO WETS HIS BED AND THEN HIDES THE SHEETS.

...YOU'RE WRONG!

WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW !!?

I DO KNOW

YOU WERE RUNNING AWAY...

...EDWARD.

DIDN'T YOU COME TO VIS T YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE?

I FEEL WAY TOO IRRITATED TO DO THAT NOW!

TALKING TO YOU MAKES ME SICK!!

YOU'RE GOING TO PINAKO'S HOUSE, RIGHT?

I'M GOING THERE TOO— SEEING AS I HAVE NO HOME OF MY OWN TO RETURN TO.

DON'T FOLLOW ME!!

WE HAVE THE SAME LOOK.
SNAP

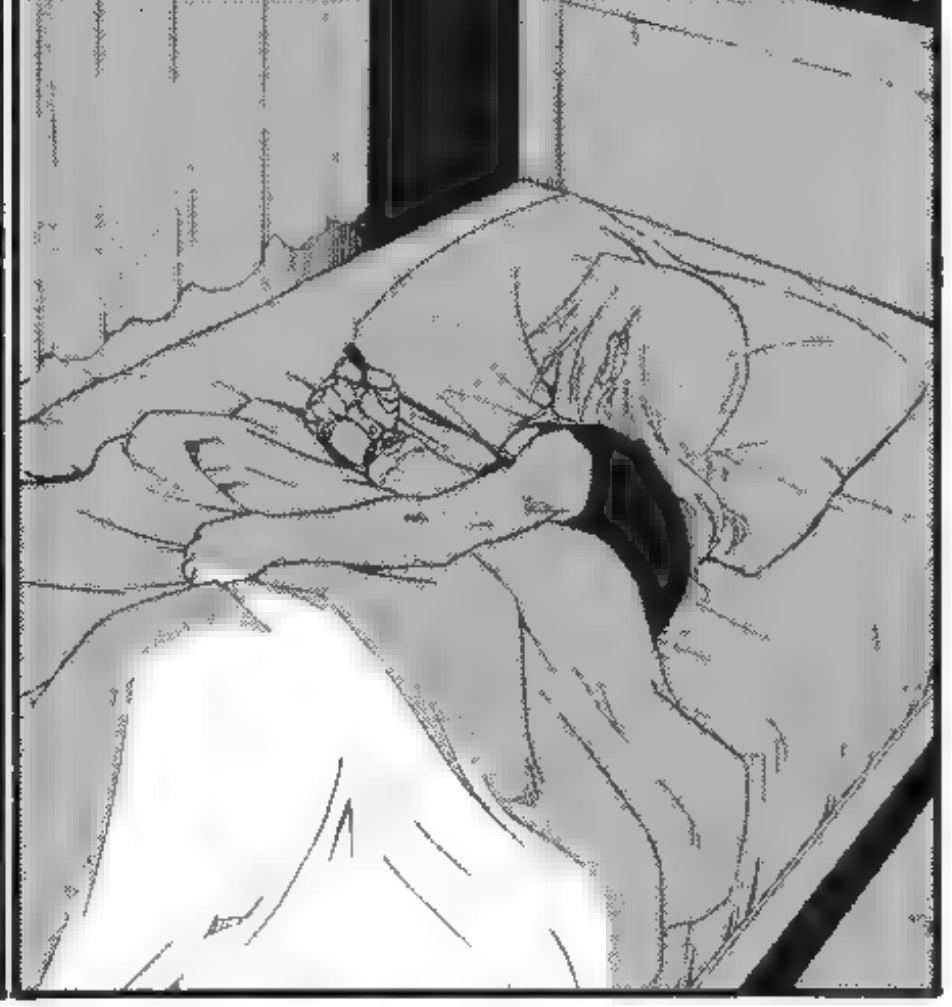
BRAID
BRAID
BRAID
BRAID

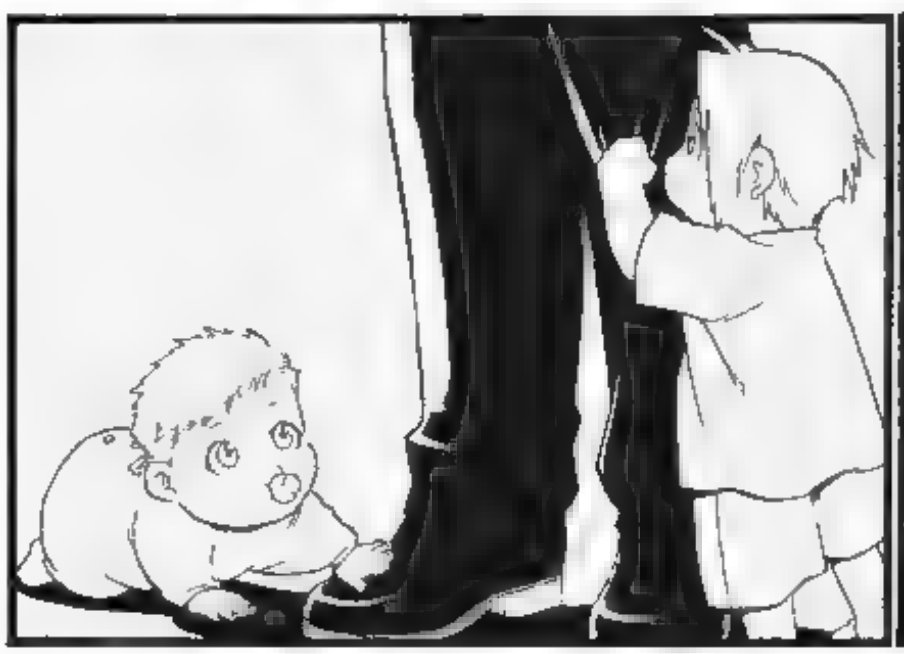
GLARE

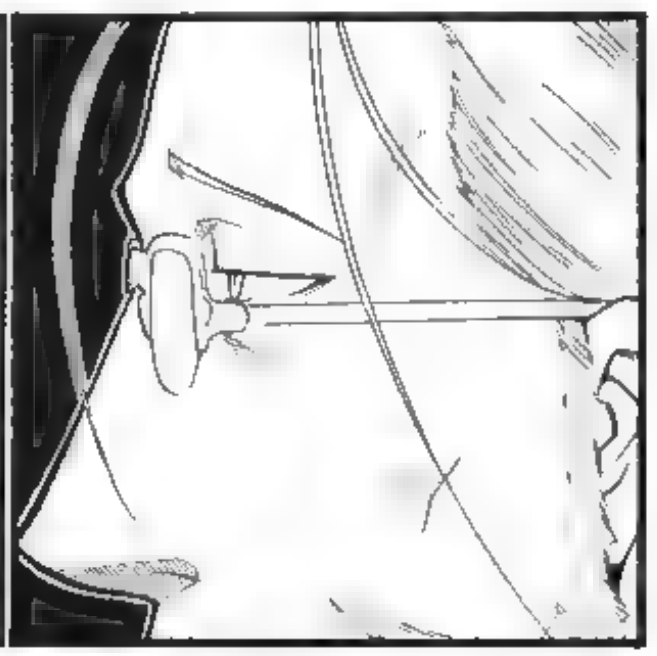
YOU'RE GROWING YOUR HAIR OUT?

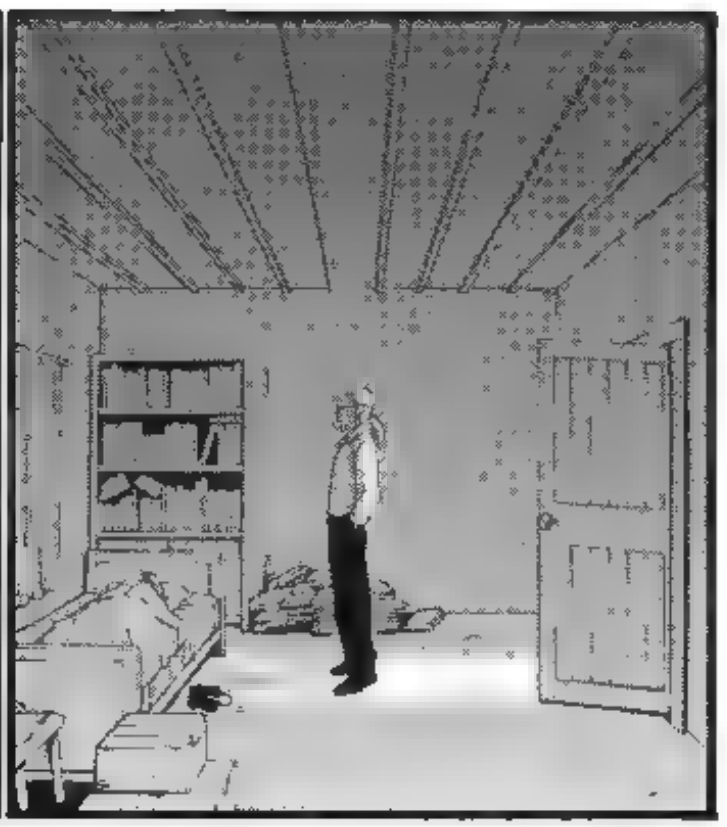
...HE'S EXACTLY LIKE ME WHEN I WAS HIS AGE.

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP









SHUT.

HUMAN TRANSMUTATION..

WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE SCOLD THEM? GIVE THEM GUIDANCE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW.

.....

HOW COULD I IN THAT SITUATION?

TRISHA WAS WAITING FOR YOU!

COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE GIVEN THEM A *PHONE CALL!?*

YOU'RE THEIR FATHER, AREN'T YOU? WHY DON'T ***YOU*** SCOLD THEM?

POOR THINGS.

THOSE KIDS HAD TO WATCH THEIR MOTHER DIE TWICE.

THOSE BOYS WOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED TO TRANSMUTE THEIR MOTHER BACK TO LIFE IF YOU'D BEEN AROUND!

TRANS-MUTE THEIR MOTHER... HUH?

TUP TUP TUP

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS REALLY TRISHA?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CLEANED UP AFTER THEM WHEN THE TRANSMUTATION FAILED?

PINA-KO...

UH-HUH.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE COLOR OF THE EYES...

THE VOICE...

I TOLD YOU THAT IT WASN'T... SHAPED LIKE A PERSON.

I COULD NEVER THINK OF THAT THING AS TRISHA.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

THE HAIR COLOR...

THAT THOSE BOYS SACRIFICED THEIR BODIES TO CREATE SOMETHING TOTALLY UNRELATED!?

WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT THING ***WASN'T*** TRISHA?

THAT'S THE CRUELEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!!

YOUR DAD'S LEAVING "

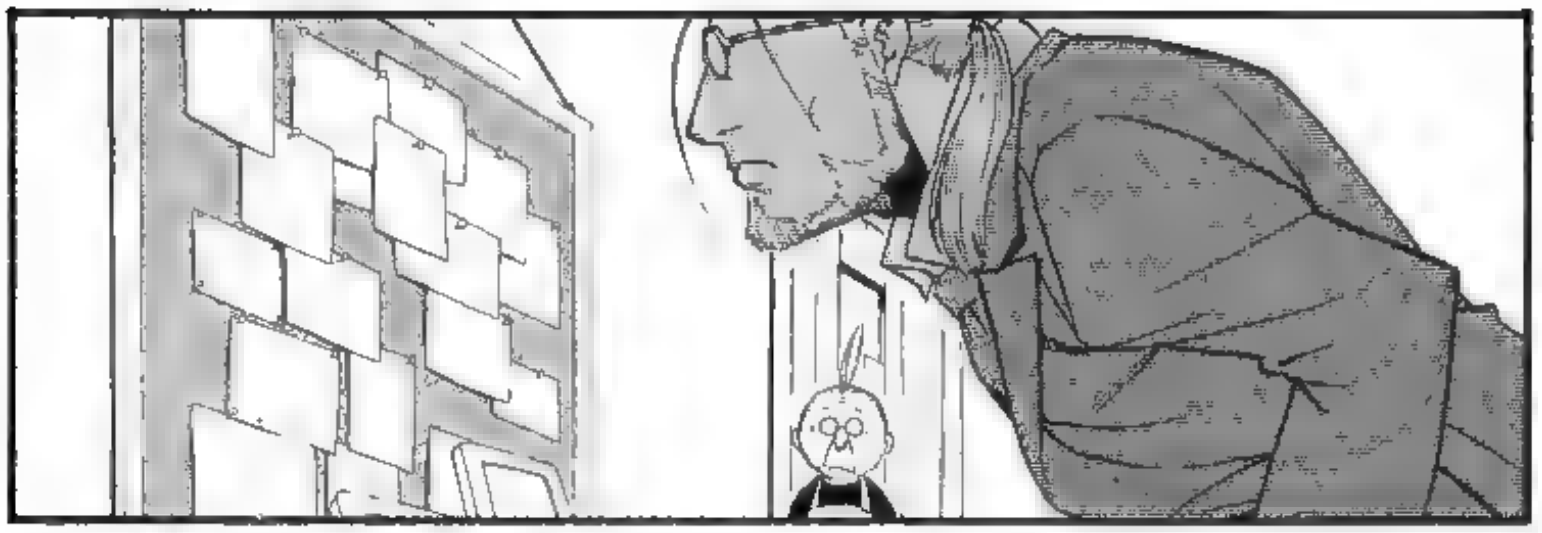
ED! YOU STILL SLEEPIN' ?

IF I LINGER TOO LONG, I'LL MISS THE TRAIN.

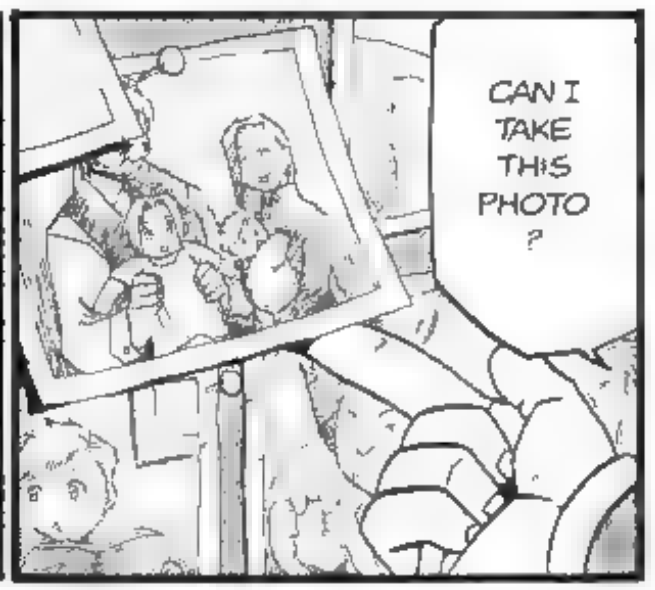
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

SHALL I GO WAKE HIM?

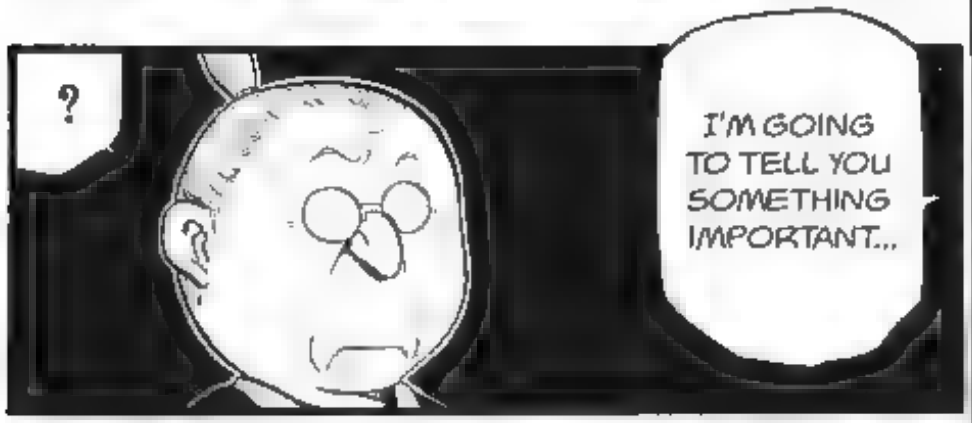
THANKS FOR HAVING ME HERE.



NO, JUST THIS ONE WILL DO.
TAKE WHAT-EVER ONES YOJ WANT.


CAN I TAKE THIS PHOTO ?

EVEN THOUGH I LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME AS I DID YEARS AGO, YOU NEVER VIEWED ME WITH SUSPICION. YOU TREATED ME THE SAME AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
PINAKO... YOU'RE STILL A GOOD FRIEND.


?
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT...

THIS IS THE ONLY ONE WE TOOK WITH ALL FOUR OF US.

ESCAPE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

SOON SOMETHING ***TERRIBLE*** WILL HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY.

...I'VE GIVEN YOU MY ADVICE.

AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO NEED THIS HOUSE AS A PLACE TO COME HOME TO.

...TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY EVERY YEAR, ALL THE TIME.

WHY SHOULD I RUN AWAY NOW?

HOHEN-
HEIM!

TRY TO COME BACK ONCE IN A WHILE FOR A MEAL.

...I WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT YOUR COOKING ANYMORE.

IT'S TOO BAD, PINAKO...

SHOULDN'T YOU GO AND SEE HIM?

DAD SHOWED UP AFTER BEING MISSING FOR TEN YEARS.

YEAH.

WHR

WHR

WHR

WHR

WHR

YOUR FATHER ?

DO YOU DISLIKE HIM?

WELL... EVEN IF I SAW HIM AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD TALK ABOUT.

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL BY THE LIBRARY OF BOOKS HE LEFT BEHIND, HE REALLY KNEW A LOT...

BUT I ***WOULD*** LIKE TO DISCUSS ALCHEMY WITH HIM.

I... DON'T ***DISLIKE*** HIM.

I DON'T EVEN ***REMEMBER*** HIM.

?

BUT...

AWW, JEEZ..

THAT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE.

YEAH.

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE PUNCHED DAD IN THE FACE.

...I'M SURE HE'S PICKING FIGHTS WITH DAD AND NOT TALKING ABOUT ALCHEMY AT ALL.

KNOW ING MY BRO- THER..

...WHEN I'VE NEVER EVEN HAD A CONVER- SATION WITH HIM.

IT'S HARD TO BE CLOSE TO HIM..

ARE YOU CLOSE TO YOUR FATHER, LIN?

YOU GUYS ARE IMAGINING ALL KINDS OF THINGS ABOUT MY LIFE, AREN'T YOU?

UM.. DID HE PASS AWAY ?

S. SORRY I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU THAT, HUH?

HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT I CAN CASUALLY SPEAK TO.

THE MAN'S AN *EMPEROR*

A PRINCE...

UH... HUH

SO DOES THAT MAKE YOU A *PRINCE*, LIN?

SPLUTTER

YUP.

..OF XING

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE

LANFAN, ARE THEY MAKING FUN OF ME?

SHALL I KILL THEM, YOUR MAJESTY?

A PRINCE!!

IT WAS JUST TOO MUCH TO TAKE...

HEY, I'M SORRY.

PFT, PFT.

PFT

I'M USED TO A MORE... SHALL WE SAY... *AWED* RE-SPONSE.

HMM HMM

SO, YOU KNOW, IF YOU BECAME MY **BRIDE,** YOU WOULD BE THE FUTURE **EMPRESS.** A REAL CINDERELLA STORY!

WELL, I GUESS IT IS A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE.

BUT... WHY IS A PRINCE LIKE YOU COLLAPSING ON THE STREET AND FREELOADING FOR FOOD?

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

PRINCE...

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

PRINCE!!

THAT'S TRUE. HA HA HA HA HA ♡

OH, I JUST COULDN'T! THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO NEED AUTO-MAIL ENGINEERS LIKE ME. ♡

THWACK

SO, WINRY, HOW ABOJT BEING MY BR--?

OFFICIALLY, THERE ARE 24 PRINCES AND 19 PRINCES-SES.

BUT THERE ARE **OVER 20** PRINCES.

THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF EACH CLAN IS PRESENTED TO THE EMPEROR TO BE HIS CONCUBINE AND BEAR HIS CHILD.

XING IS A NATION COMPRISED OF **50** DIFFERENT ETHNIC CLANS.

WHICH MEANS RISING TO THE EMPEROR'S THRONE IS WELL WITHIN REASON.

MY MOTHER MARRIED THE EMPEROR AS THE REPRE-SENTATIVE OF THE *YAO* CLAN.

WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHT OF INHERI-TANCE?

TWEL...

YEAH, THAT'S EXACTLY THE PROBLEM I'M GRAPPLING WITH RIGHT NOW.

I AM THE EMPEROR'S TWELFTH CHILD.

PRESENTLY IN XING, THE CLANS ARE DESPERATELY VYING FOR POWER.

APPARENTLY, HE DOESN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE.

RECENTLY THE EMPEROR BECAME STRICKEN BY ILLNESS.

I SEE...SINCE HE'S DYING, THE THING THAT WOULD IMPRESS HIM THE MOST IS THE SECRET TO IMMORTALITY.

WHOEVER WINS THE EMPEROR'S FAVOR WILL SUCCEED HIM TO THE THRONE.

LIN WON'T EVER ATTAIN THE EMPEROR'S THRONE.

RIGHT?

HUH? BUT IF YOU GIVE HIM THAT SECRET, THEN THAT MEANS THE PRESENT EMPEROR WON'T DIE SO...

I JUST NEED HIM TO RAISE MY CLAN'S POSITION, EVEN IF IT'S JUST BY A SMALL AMOUNT.

AFTER THAT, I'LL SEIZE THE THRONE ON MY OWN.

LIKE I SAID, THE PRESENT EMPEROR WON'T LIVE MUCH LONGER.

I JUST WANT TO BRING BACK SOMETHING THAT GIVES HIM A SEMBLANCE OF IMMORTALITY, LONG ENOUGH TO WIN HIS FAVOR.

AND THEN, I FOUND OUT ABOJT YOUR BODY'S SECRET.

I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY WITH THE FATE OF FIFTY THOUSAND YAO PEOPLE IN MY HANDS...

...LURED BY THE LEGENDS THAT SURROUND THE PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE.

BECAUSE YOUR BODY WILL NEVER DIE, YOU'RE THE CLOSEST THING TO BEING IMMORTAL.

YOUR SOUL HAS BEEN BOUND TO A METALLIC BODY.

...

HA...

I'M NOT IMMORTAL. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'LL HAVE A NORMAL HUMAN LIFESPAN.

?

IT'S NO USE, LIN.

HA HA HA HA HA!

THIS BODY OF MINE...

...IS A TICKING TIME BOMB.

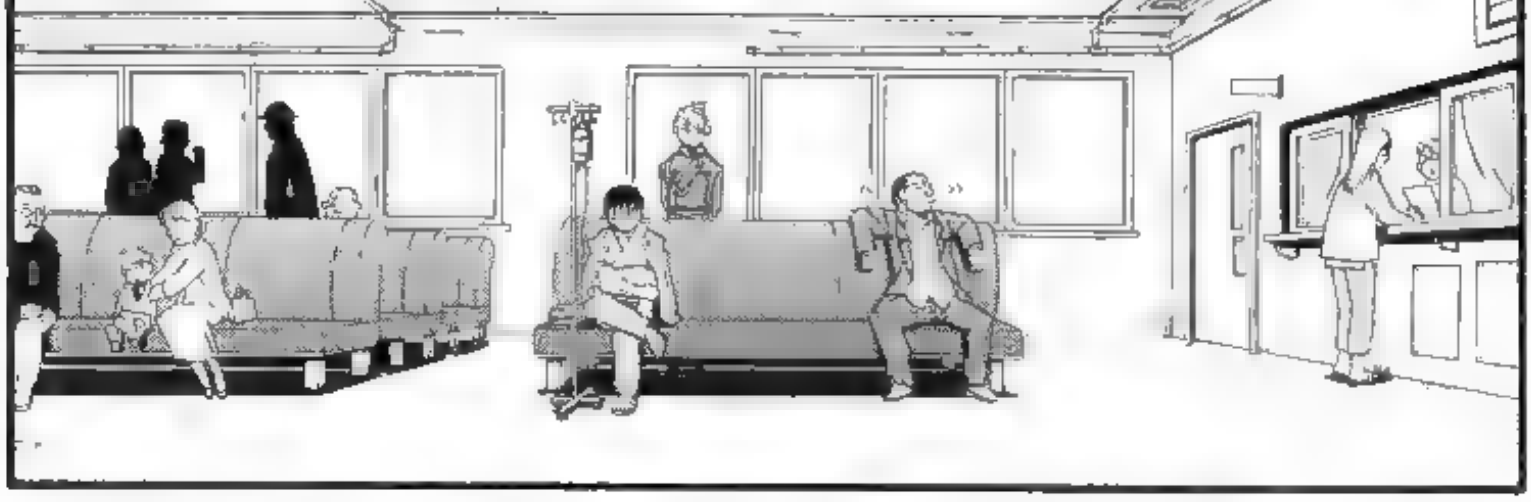
FWUMP

HEL-LO. YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL

HEY.

CORONERS HAVE TO STAND ON THEIR FEET THE WHOLE TIME SO IT'S HARD ON OLD PEOPLE LIKE ME

LOWER BACK PAINS.



YOU KNEW THAT I WAS PLOTTING SOMETHING AND YET YOU STILL DECIDED THAT "THAT THING" WAS MARIA ROSS?
WHISPER

WHISPER
WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BURNED THAT *THING*, I STARTED TO GET A FUNNY FEELING.
WHAT ARE YOU PLOT-TING ?

FOR A BODY THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED FROM INCINERATION, THE LIMBS WERE ALL OUT OF WHACK.
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO DO A BETTER JOB WHEN YOU BURN THEM UP.

THE DAY THAT 2ND LT. ROSS ESCAPED, THERE WAS A LARGE FIRE IN A MILITARY FACTORY.

IF ANYONE ELSE HAD DONE THE AUTOPSY, YOU COULDA FOUND YOURSELF IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE
BUT THE TEETH DID MATCH SO I SAID THAT IT WAS MARIA ROSS.

YOU AIN'T EVEN SEEN ME SINCE ISHBAL. WHAT MADE YOU THINK I'D COVER FOR YOU NOW?

YOU'RE CLEVER, MUSTANG. OR STUPID.

Central Times

CONSIDERING YOUR EXPERTISE, I FIGURED YOU WOULD BE THE ONE ASSIGNED TO THE CASE

QUITE A FEW PEOPLE BURNED TO DEATH.

WE'RE COMRADES IN ARMS.

SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...

YOU'D BURN THEM, I'D DISSECT THEM.

TCH!

COMRADES IN ARMS? I THOUGHT WE WERE CLOSER THAN THAT.

ISHBAL WAS NOTHING BUT A HUGE, BLOODY LABORATORY WITH HUMAN BEINGS AS THE GUINEA PIGS.

MR. KNOX?

HERE I COME.

WE'RE NOT COM-RADES IN ARMS.

WE'RE *ACCOM-PLICES.*

IF YOU KEEP WALKING THESE DANGEROUS TIGHTROPES, ONE DAY YOU'RE GONNA GET A PAINFUL WAKEUP CALL.

KRIK

...I *ALREADY* HAVE.

MY SUB-ORDINATE SUFFERED SPINAL DAMAGE THAT PARALYZED HIS LOWER BODY.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE?

SPINAL ANAT-OMY...

DID SOME-ONE GET HURT?

IT DEPENDS ON THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE. BUT IF IT'S THE SPINE...

..IT'S UNLIKELY THAT HE'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO SERVICE.

WHEE! AH HA HA!

PSS

AND THEY ALLOW ME ONLY ONE OF THESE A DAY..

AWW...

YOUR ASHES.

HAV.

I'M GLAD.

GOOD.

UH-HUH, IT WENT SMOOTHLY.

YOU'RE SURE SHE MADE IT OUT SAFELY?

I THINK THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE FORWARD.

I SENT MY REPORT TO THE COLONEL EARLIER.

NOPE.

SO YOU...

...CAN'T MOVE YOUR LEGS?

CAN'T YOU GET AUTO-MAIL LIKE THE FULL-METAL KID?

THE NERVE SIGNALS ARE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM MY LOWER BODY SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

AND THE BEST PART IS, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE THAT I WAS DISCHARGED BECAUSE I WAS STABBED BY A WOMAN

HUH?

..DON'T SUIT YOU.

RETIRED LIFE DOESN'T SUIT YOU!

DID YOU GET A CHANCE TO READ MY REPORT?

NO, NOT YET.

COL-ONEL.

WE CAN ASK DR. MARCOH.

ABOUT HAVOC'S LEGS...

IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND MY VACATION TIME?

THE MEDICAL ALCHEMIST WHO POSSESSES THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE!

GO!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

THERE. ALL DONE.

YOU REALLY HUNG IN THERE.

OW...

OW OW OW...

NOK NOK NOK NOK

DOC-TOR!

DR. MAURO!

NOW, I GUESS I'LL TAKE A BREAK..

TAKE CARE.

THANK YOU, DR. MAURO!

!

KREEEAK

YES...?

MAU-RO...

OR RATHER, DR. MARCOH.

I'M HERE TO ESCORT YOU BACK.

WHAT WOULD A MILITARY OFFICER WANT WITH ME?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

PLEASE LEAVE.

YOU'RE DR. MARCOH, THE ONE WHO WAS CREATING THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON. I'M...

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME.

...!!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, DOC-TOR ?

GRNCH GRNCH GRNCH

NOT SO FAST !!

GRAB

BA-TAM!

IT...IT C-CAN'T BE! Y- YOU'RE...

THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT AN **OLD** FRIEND.

FZT

FZT

BZT

LONG TIME NO SEE, DOC.

SO GLAD YOU REMEM-BER ME.

BZT.

SHE SAID YOUR CLINIC WAS A DUMP, BUT THIS IS JUST PATHETIC!

IF YOU'D STAYED WITH THE MILITARY, THEY'D HAVE GIVEN YOU A NICE NEW LAB WITH ALL THE BEST EQUIPMENT. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU COULD PUT UP WITH THIS.

SNIFF SNIFF

I HEAR LUST PAID YOU A VISIT NOT TOO LONG AGO.

WHAT DO YOU WANT !?

LUST..

SMELLS LIKE LUST..

TO BE HONEST, LATELY I'VE BEEN RUNNING KIND OF LOW ON GOOD PAWNS.

I'M NOT GONNA *EAT* YOU.

NO NEED TO SCOWL AT L'IL OL' ME!

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AGAIN, DOC.

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

LUST MUST'VE TOLD YOU, TOO..

...THAT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FUNNY..

COME TO CENTRAL !

LEAVE ME ALONE... "

PLEASE..

...WE'LL ERASE THIS VILLAGE FROM THE MAP!

THE ISHBALANS, THE CONVICTED CRIMINALS...

YOU SURE HAVE KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE FOR THAT PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, DR. MARCOH.

YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE IT ALL BY DYING?

YOU'RE SO NAIVE.

NO...

DON'T...

JUST KILL ME !!

...OR TO FIND PEACE IN DEATH !

YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO A PEACEFUL LIFE...

EASY CHOICE...

...RIGHT ?

AND IF YOU DECIDE TO COMMIT SUICIDE LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE, IT'S BYE-BYE VILLAGE. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

TRY ANYTHING FUNNY AND THIS VILLAGE WILL BE ***WIPED OUT.***

SNIFF, SNIFF

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHOICE THAT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU.

YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

NOK NOK NOK NOK NOK NOK NOK

DANG, AM I JUST WASTING MY TIME HERE?

NOK

DOC-TOR!

ARE YOU IN THERE!?

A LITTLE WHILE AGO?

WHAT HAP-PENED? DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?

AREN'T YOU THE MAN WHO WENT INTO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE A LITTLE WHILE AGO?

HUH?

EXCUSE ME, DO YOU KNOW IF THE DOCTOR IS OUT?

BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW YOU GOING IN THERE EARLIER WEARING A MILITARY UNIFORM...

NO, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN HERE.

BAS-TARD...

DASH

KA

BAM

SLAM!!

...

...!!

NOT GOOD !!

SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE THEY WILL *REJECT* ONE ANOTHER. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL BE LIKE A TIME BOMB GOING OFF.

UH-HUH. A METAL BODY BOUND TO A HUMAN SOUL...

A TIME BOMB ?

HOTEL

HOT

IT COULD BE IN A HUNDRED YEARS...

COULD BE TOMORROW OR...

THIS BODY IS THE FARTHEST THING FROM BEING IMMORTAL.

NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND ?

EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT TIME WILL COME.

Chapter 43
River Of Mud

..YOU HAVE TO GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

NOW, HOLD UP.

IN THAT CASE...

WHEN IT GETS TOO DANGEROUS TO STAY IN THAT BODY, CAN'T YOU JUST TRANSFER YOUR SOUL INTO SOMETHING ELSE?

THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT IT !!!

SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD WAY TO LIVE TO ME-

YOU DON'T FEEL PAIN AND YOU NEVER HAVE TO EAT.

YOU..

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING !!

SLAM

WINRY !

...I'M SORRY.

I'M COMING IN, OKAY?

NOK

WINRY...

NOK
NOK

WINRY!

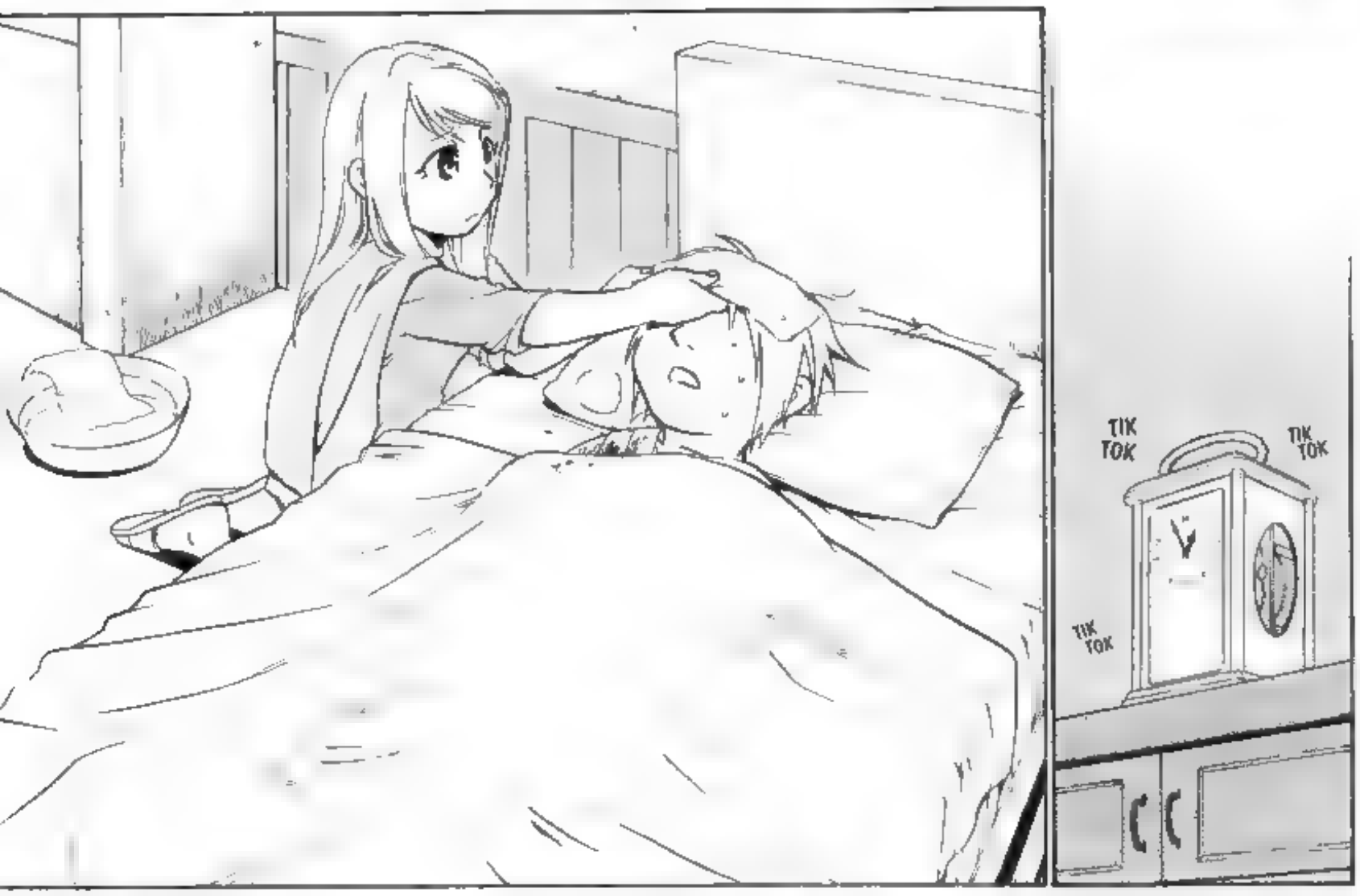
503

HA HA HA

YOU AND MY BIG BROTHER ALWAYS LOSE YOUR TEMPERS BEFORE I GET A CHANCE TO. I GUESS MY TIMING'S BAD.

...IT'S FUNNY...

BUT...


TIK TOK
TIK TOK

I GUESS THIS BODY WON'T LET ME SLEEP.

KLANK

...NO.

CAN'T YOU SLEEP

AL

I CAN'T FEEL ANY-THING IN THIS BODY.

CAN'T FEEL THAT EITHER.

AREN'T YOU COLD

BUT NOW... EACH NIGHT FEELS AS IF IT'S NEVER GOING TO END.

THE NIGHTS SEEMED SO SHORT.

...AND EVENTUALLY WE'D GET TIRED, FALL ASLEEP AND HAVE HAPPY DREAMS.

JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BIG BROTHER AND I WOULD STAY UP DISCUSSING ALCHEMY AND OUR FUTURE.

I NEVER KNEW THAT THE NIGHT WAS SO LONG.

IT MAKES ME THINK ABOUT THINGS THAT I SHOULDN'T.

AFTER SEEING YOU SUFFER LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO WAY THAT I WANT THINGS TO STAY THE WAY THEY ARE.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK, RIGHT?

RIGHT !?

YOU TOOK HIM AWAY !

YOU DID THAT TO AL'S BODY !

GIVE IT BACK !!

GIVE IT BACK..

GIVE ME BACK THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT!!

WHAT EVER DO YOU MEAN?

GIVE HIM BACK ?

A BODY THAT CAN'T EVEN CRY..

..THAT CAN'T FEEL WARMTH...

..THAT CAN'T FEEL PAIN...

..AND GAVE HIM A BODY THAT CAN'T SLEEP..

THE PERSON WHO PULLED BACK YOUR BROTHER'S SOUL..

YOU DID IT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!!

YOU DID THIS, AND NO ONE ELSE!!

...WAS THE FULL METAL ALCHEMIST!!

!!

IT ISN'T MY FAULT THAT YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER WAS TURNED INTO A SUIT OF ARMOR.

YOU TURNED HIM INTO A MONSTER.

YOU DID THIS TO HIM, EDWARD ELRIC.

ED-WARD.

NO...IT WASN'T JUST YOUR BROTHER.

ED.

ED...

ED...

DON'T LEAVE ME HERE LIKE THIS!

PLEASE BRING ME BACK TO LIFE SOON!

PROM-ISE ME?

CREAK...

YOUR DAD'S LEAVING !!

ARE YOU STILL IN BED !?

ED !!

...

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS REALLY TRISHA?

HAS SHE CALLED ?

SEEMS LIKE WINRY'S TAKING HER TRAINING VERY SERIOUSLY.

MY ARM AND LEG ARE WORKING JUST FINE.

HER SKILL'S GONE UP QUITE A BIT.

NO, I CAN JUST TELL BY LOOKING AT THE AUTO-MAIL.

I WAS AFRAID SHE MIGHT COME RUNNING BACK AS SOON AS HER TRAINING GOT HARD...

KEH HEH HEH

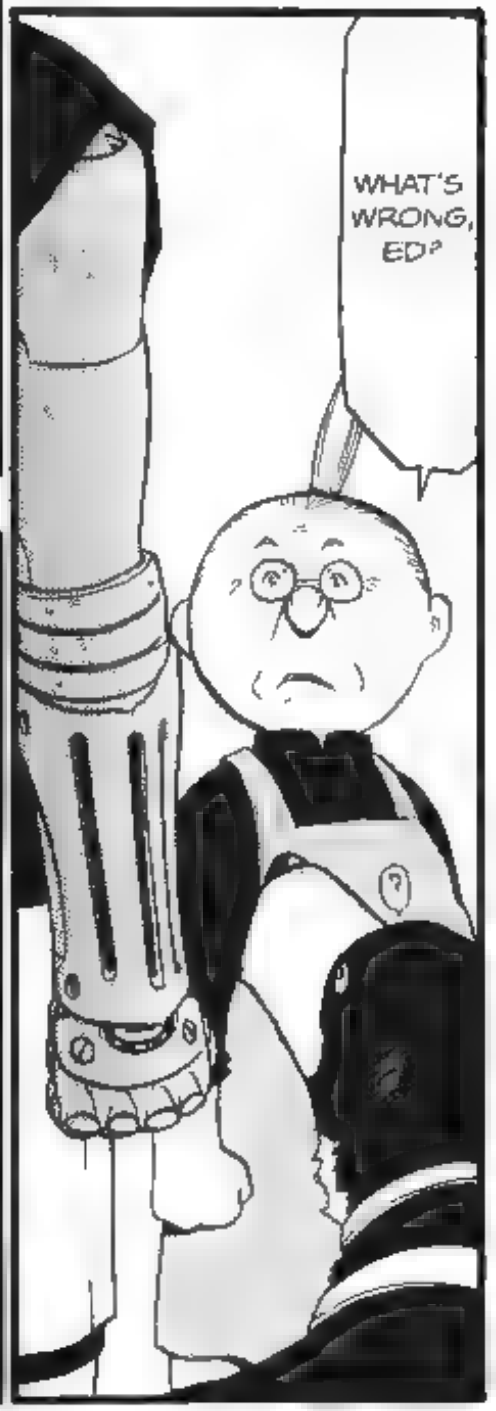
..BUT I GUESS I WAS JUST WORRYING NEED-LESSLY.

HM...

IT DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT, BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT IS BETTER, HUH?

WHAT IS IT?

..GRAN-NY.


WHAT'S WRONG, ED?

ZING
...THERE'S SOME-THING I NEED YOU TO HELP ME WITH.

SHF
SHF

SHF

ZAH...

TH-THMP

SHF

CLENCH

TH-THMP

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY...

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

IT'S BEHIND THE HOUSE.

TH-THMP

..IT'S AROUND HERE

THIS IS WHERE I BURIED IT.

THMP

TH-T

ZING

SHOULD WE STOP

...NO.

CRNCH

...WHICH MEANS THE WEATHER'S ABOUT TO CHANGE. LET'S GET THIS DONE WITH.

CREAK...

MY JOINTS ARE STARTING TO ACHE...

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

WE NEED TO HURRY.

SHAAAAAA

OH, NO. IT'S STARTING TO RAIN.

ㅏㅡㅏ

!!

GEHOF

MY STOM-ACH.

DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF TOO HARD!

ED !!

GEH

HYUCK

..LET'S STOP.

I DON'T WANT THIS TO BREAK YOU.

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S TWISTING TSELF IN TWO...

OF COURSE IT DOES, BOY! THIS IS TOO PAINFUL AN EXERCISE, EVEN FOR YOJ!!

GRAB

AN ALCHEMIST IS SOMEONE WHO SEEKS THE TRUTH.

I CAN'T JUST LOOK AT WHAT'S CONVENIENT AND IGNORE EVERYTHING ELSE

I CAN'T *MOVE* FORWARD UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE.

"YOU RAN AWAY."

NO MATTER WHAT !

WIPE

I WON'T RUN AWAY...

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

TH-THUMP

SMACK

SPLISH

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

MOM HAD CHESTNUT COLORED HAIR..

TH-THUMP

GRANNY..

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

THUMP

THIS IS BLACK !!

SHAAAAAAAAA

I CAN JUDGE THE HEIGHT BY THE LENGTH OF THE FEMUR.

WE CAN TELL THE GENDER BY LOOKING AT THE PELVIS.

THIS THING HAS NONE OF TRISHA'S CHARACTER-ISTICS.

UH-HUH.

GRAN-NY...

SL

UMP

THIS...

...IS NOT YOUR MOTHER.

NO...A DIFFERENT "THING" ALTO-GETHER !

IT'S A COM-PLETELY DIF-FERENT PERSON..

SO THESE BOYS SACRIFICED THEIR BODIES FOR SOME... THING?

GRRR !

IT'S ALL TOO CRUEL !!

SO THAT MEANS AL..

HA HA..

HA HA HA.

HA..

HA HA..

...HA...

IT'S TRUE.

A DEAD PERSON CAN NEVER COME BACK TO LIFE, NO MATTER WHAT WE DO.

THAT'S THE TRUTH.

WHETHER IT'S THE RULES OF ALCHEMY OR THAT IT'S A SIN— THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

WHAT AM I DOING?

HAHA HA HA HA HA!

SHAAP

ISN'T IT IRONIC, GRANNY?

THE ANSWER WAS RIGHT HERE AT THE STARTING POINT ALL ALONG.

BUT NOW ***THIS*** WILL LEAD TO NEW HOPE.

YEAH.

FROM THAT DAY UNTIL JUST NOW, ***THIS THING*** WAS A SYMBOL OF MY DESPAIR.

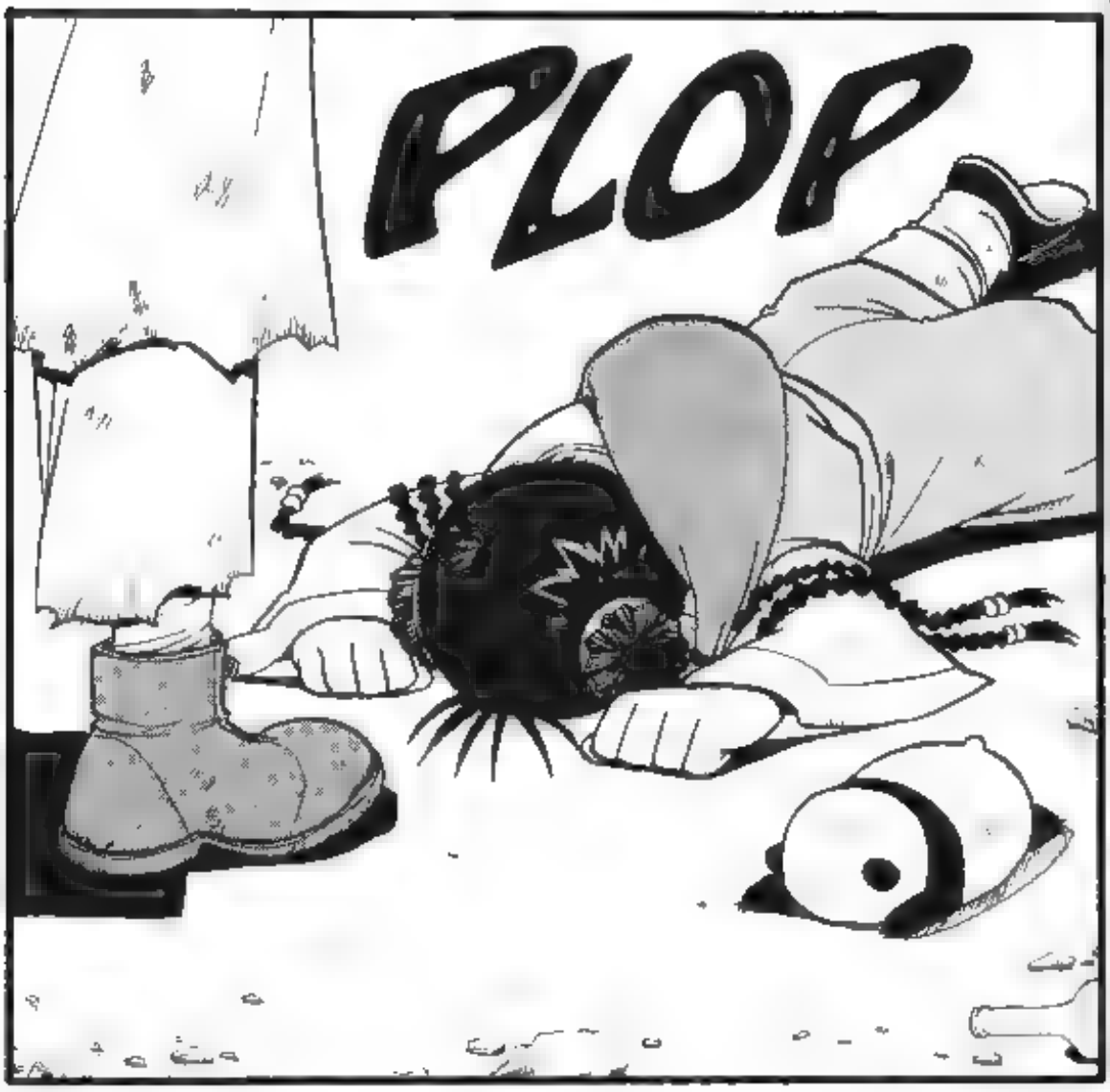
"HANG IN THERE"?

ED, GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF.

HANG IN THERE!

I'M FINE.

AL CAN BE RETURNED TO NORMAL!!


PLOP

HEY, KID !
HEY !
SHE PASSED OUT FROM EXHAUS-TION...

CHOMP

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

AAAA AAAH!!!

RUSTLE

ANYTHING VALUABLE..?

CHOMP

I WON'T DO IT AGAIN. I'M SORRY!

HISSS!

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

YOU SAVED ME !!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!

CHOMP

I WAS JOKING! OW! PLEASE STOP!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN PAY ME BACK N INSTALL-MENTS OVER THE REST OF YOUR--

BOW

I OWE YOU MY LIFE, MR. YOKI.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF SOMEONE NAMED EDWARD ELRIC ?

I'M LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE.

WHAT'S A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU DOING OUT HERE ALL ALONE?

YOU SAID YOUR NAME IS MAY CHANG, RIGHT ?

HA HA HA HA

...HUH? WHO'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO BE!!?

KNOW HIM? THAT LITTLE SNOT RUINED MY LIFE !!

MR. EDWARD...

SO HE'S SERIOUS AFTER ALL

WHAAAT!!? WHAT ON EARTH COULD YOU WANT WITH THAT BRAT!!?

DO YOU KNOW HIM! ?

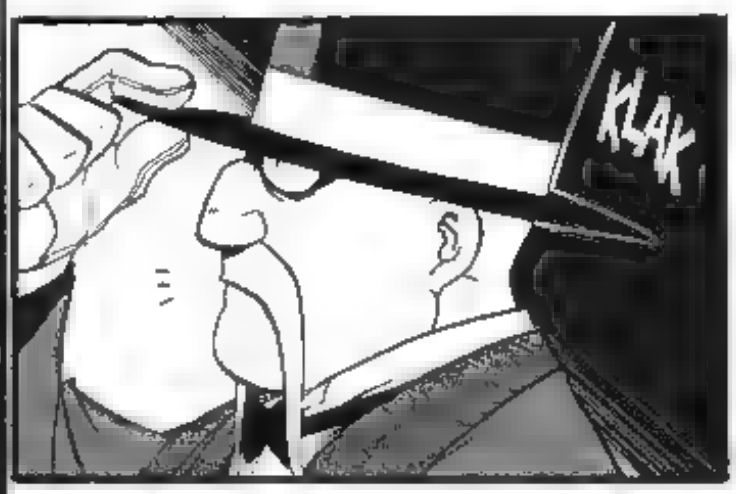
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT BRAT IS A STATE ALCHEMIST ISN'T HE?

HM..

HEH HEH HEH... LEAVE IT TO ME!
MR. YOKI, DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS RIGHT NOW?

MY SERVANT WILL LEAD US RIGHT TO HIM!!

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK


KLAK

YOU'RE GIOLIO COMANCHI, ARE YOU NOT?

KLAK

...CAN I HELP YOU?

AND THE ONE WITH A SCAR ON HIS FORE-HEAD, NO LESS.

I HEARD THAT YOU DIED IN EAST CITY.

HO HO!

AN ISHBALAN GHOST DOTH APPEAR BEFORE ME!

KASHING

I CANNOT GO TO GOD'S SIDE UNTIL I BURY EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU STATE ALCHEMISTS.

I APPLAUD YOUR COURAGE !!

YOU WOULD CHALLENGE ME TO BATTLE KNOWING THAT I AM THE *SILVER ALCHEMIST?*

HO HO !

AH, THE JOY OF THE BATTLE-FIELD !!

WHRRWHRR

THE LEG YOU BASTARDS TOOK FROM ME IS STARTING TO ACHE WITH NOSTALGIA!!

BOOM

WHOOOSH

WHRW
RHRW
HRRW
HRR
WHRR
SKKKKKID
HMPH!
SPIN
THOO
OSH

KA BAN

WHIRRR

SPURT

SLICE

SWOOO

I MEANT TO SLICE YOUR LEFT LEG OFF BUT APPARENTLY IT WAS JUST A GRAZE.

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD.

HM! I MISSED!

TONK

...

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THOSE OF US WITH THE ABILITY TO *CREATE*.

BUT THOSE HANDS OF YOURS ONLY KNOW HOW TO *DESTROY*.

WHAT ARE YOU...?

...JUST A GRAZE, HUH?

SPLA SH

UWAAH !!?

SNAP

HUH ?

CRKLE

GLUB

!!!

GLUB

I NEED TO TRANS-MUTE A WEAPON!!

ELE-MENTAL MATER-IALS..

GLUB

CRACK

THERE'S ONLY... WATER !!

.....

GLUB

TRANS.

GLUB

I NEED SOME-THING... EVEN A ROCK !

GLUB

POF...

GLUB

BLUB

Chapter 44
The Unnamed Grave

HEY, GRANNY...

I WANT TO MAKE... A PROPER GRAVE.

...I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PUT ON THE GRAVE-STONE?

IT WAS A REAL HUMAN BEING, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

I GAVE IT LIFE... AND WATCHED IT DIE.

IT WAS A HUMAN BEING.

THIS THING... I DON'T KNOW HOW...

...BUT I SAW IT MOVE. IT *LOOKED* AT ME.

...A GRAVE.

IT DE-SERVES...

HE KNOWS IT AIN'T HIS MOTHER, AND IT BARELY LOOKED LIKE A PERSON, BUT HE STILL CALLS THIS THING A "HUMAN BEING"?

THE BOY'S USING THE TERM TOO LOOSELY.

THAT'S RIGHT.. AL

ED, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. IF THIS ISN'T TRISHA, THEN...

...IF HE DIDN'T, MAYBE HE'D HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER ISN'T HUMAN EITHER.

BUT..

IF HUMAN TRANSMUTATION IS IMPOSSIBLE, THEN WHAT ABOUT THE SOUL THAT YOU TRANSMUTED FOR AL?

THEN AL IS...

THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS I NEED TO CHECK ON

UH-HUH.

YOU TWO ARE DEFINITELY TRISHA AND HOHENHEIM'S CHILDREN.

I HELPED WITH THE DELIVERY OF BOTH YOU BOYS.

OKAY, OKAY, GOOD.

GRANNY, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT AL AND I ARE MOM'S CHILDREN, RIGHT?

NO DOUBT AT ALL.

?

...OKAY.

MY INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOUL WAS CORRECT BUT I STILL FAILED...

OH, ED, IT'S YOU! WHAT'S GOING ON?

HELLO, CURTIS RESI-DENCE.

COUGH

BRRINGG RRRINGG

UM... THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU ABOUT, TEACHER.

...SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER, PLEASE JUST HANG UP THE PHONE.

THIS QUESTION MIGHT OFFEND YOU AND ANSWERING IT MIGHT DESTROY SOMETHING VERY DEAR TO YOU...

WHAT IS IT? JUST TELL ME.

YOU CAN EVEN CUT ALL TIES WITH ME AS YOUR APPRENTICE... ACTUALLY, YOU ALREADY EXPELLED ME, DIDN'T YOU?

TEACHER, DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE TIME YOU TRIED TO TRANSMUTE YOUR CHILD?

...UH-HUH.

HOW COULD I FORGET?

HOW COULD I **EVER** FORGET **THAT**!?!

WHAT ABOUT IT?

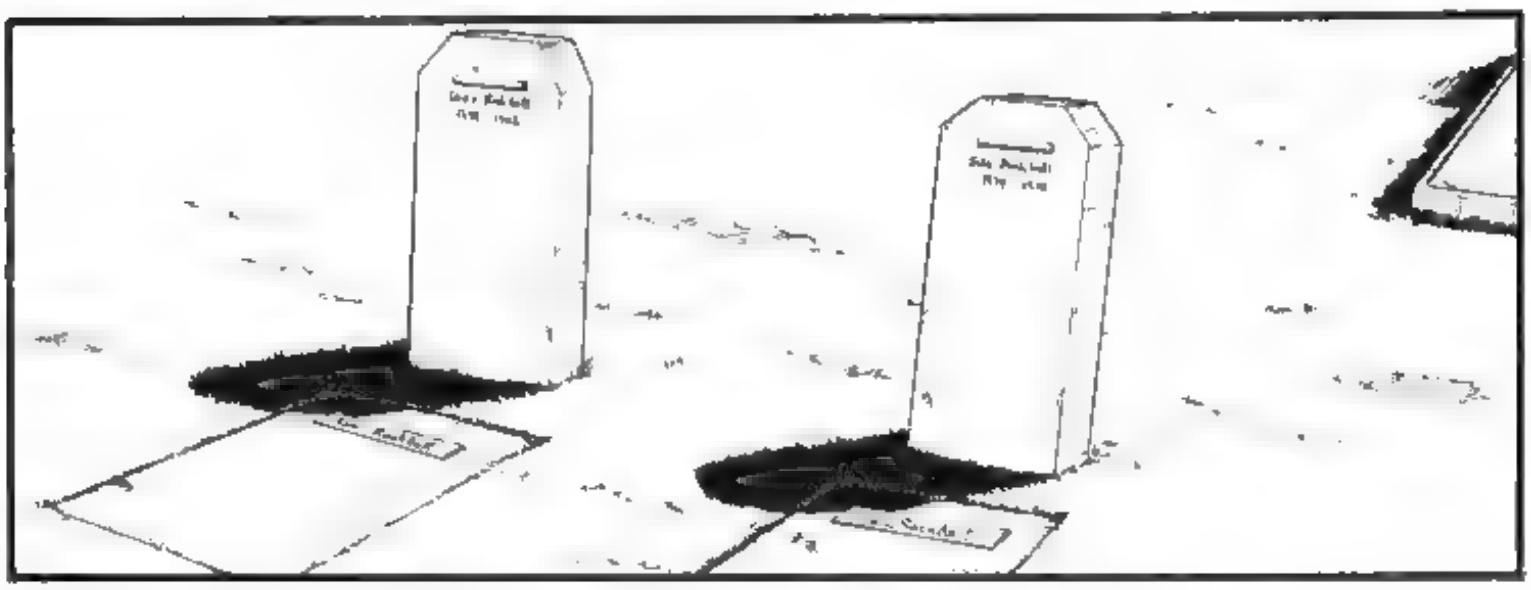
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

THE PERSON THAT AL AND I BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD WAS NOT REALLY OUR MOTHER.

TEACHER, WAS THE LIFE THAT YOU TRANSMUTED REALLY YOUR CHILD?

SLAM
SHH!



THAT MAKES ME A PROUD PARENT.

THEY SAID MY SON AND HIS WIFE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES ON THE BATTLEFIELD, HUH?

THEY DIDN'T SAY.

...NO.

I DON'T SUPPOSE THEY TOLD YOU HOW THEY DIED?

NOT A CLUE.

HE DIDN'T TELL ME.

THAT GUY... HOHENHEIM. ANY IDEA WHERE HE'S GOING NOW?

...I SEE.

IF YOU SEE HIM, I'VE GOT A MESSAGE I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM.

WHAT IS IT?

OH "

I ALMOST FORGOT "

THAT BASTARD! HE STAYED JUST ENOUGH TO SAY WHAT HE WANTED AND DISAPPEARED! JUST WHEN I WAS GETTING READY TO LET HIM HAVE IT, TOO!

TRISHA'S LAST WISH.

THAT I COULDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE TO HIM.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? ONCE YOU GET BETTER YOU CAN TELL HIM YOURSELF

TELL HIM.

PINAKO.

IF HE COMES BACK, WILL YOU PLEASE DELIVER THIS MESSAGE

AND PLEASE TELL HIM...

THAT I'M SORRY.

I'LL BE PASSING ON BEFORE HIM.

NOW I'VE TOLD YOU.

SO *YOU* TELL HOHENHEIM.

WHY *ME* !?

PROMISE? WHAT PROMISE?

I DON'T KNOW...

FEH!

HE JUST DOESN'T TO BE A PARENT, THAT'S ALL!

HE SAID THAT HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AS A PARENT

THE NIGHT THAT HE CAME BACK, HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND APOLOGIZED TO ME FOR NOT COMING BACK FOR YOU BOYS.

HE MIGHT BE USELESS BUT HE'S STILL YOUR FATHER.

ARE YOU GOING BACK TO CENTRAL?

UH-HUH. I NEED TO GET BACK TO AL SO THAT HE CAN CHEW ME OUT.

...I'LL GIVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE, ALL RIGHT. AFTER I SLUG HIM IN THE FACE!

IF I SEE HIM...

TCH

I JUST HOPE HE CAN STILL FIND IT IN HIS HEART TO FORGIVE HIS BIG BROTHER...

ED HASN'T RETURNED WITH THE MONEY, SO WE CAN'T LEAVE THE HOTEL.

THE NERVE!! WHAT KIND OF MAN MAKES A GIRL WORRY ABOUT MONEY!?!

I'M REALLY SORRY, MR. GARFIEL !!

YES, SIR!! OF COURSE!!

BUT WHEN YOU RETURN, BE PREPARED TO WORK EXTRA HARD!!

Tee hee hee

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT GETTING BACK TO THE SHOP- I CAN EXTEND YOUR VACATION AS LONG AS YOU NEED.

hee!

HA HA...

WHEN HE COMES BACK, GIRLFRIEND, YOU MILK HIM FOR EVERYTHING HE'S GOT! HE OWES YOU!

KA-KLACK

HEY, WINRY.

SCOOCH

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

SCOOCH

THAT'S NOT IT!! JUST HURRY UP AND GO SEE AL!!

SCOOCH

SCOOCH

He has my money!?

WHAT GIVES!? IF THIS IS ABOUT MY AUTO-MAIL, I DIDN'T BREAK IT!!

YOU IDIOT !!!

!?

PUSH

I'm sorry...

WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING INTO WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE!?!

AL... YOU'RE ALL BUSTED! AAAAAGH !!!

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE? WE'RE EATING.

GOBBLE MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH GOBBLE

AND WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE!?

WHAT IS THIS !?!

AW, GEEZ, AL. YOU REALLY ARE A MESS.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO REPLACE YOUR MISSING PARTS WITH METAL FROM THE SURROUNDING ARMOR.

OK

IT

502

IT'S GOING TO MAKE YOUR BODY A LITTLE THINNER, BUT...

WHAT'S WRONG?

THE HOMUNCULI AND BARRY THE CHOPPER, HUH?

CL

AP

SOUNDS LIKE THINGS HAVE BEEN RATHER ***FESTIVE*** WHILE I WAS GONE.

BZSH

FZT

AL CAN BE RE-TURNED TO NORMAL, RIGHT, ED?

YOU CAN BET ON IT! I'LL RETURN HIM TO NORMAL, NO MATTER WHAT!!

AND THERE'S STILL THAT LITTLE PROBLEM THAT YOUR BODY AND YOUR SOUL MIGHT REJECT ONE ANOTHER AT ANY TIME!

YOU WHAT !?

AND THIS IS WHAT I FOUND OUT!

AL...

I...

I DUG UP THE REMAINS OF WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS MOM SO THAT I COULD VERIFY HER IDENTITY...

FWUMP

THE THING WE BURIED WAS *NOT* OUR MOTHER.

WAIT A MINUTE...

THAT MEANS..

BUT..

I'M CONVINCED THAT YOU CAN BE RETURNED TO YOUR ORIGINAL BODY.

DON'T YELL AT ME JUST YET.

BIG BROTHER, HOW COULD YOU GO OFF AND DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITHOUT TELLING ME!?

YOU GUYS RE-MEM-BER THAT?

A LONG TIME AGO...WE FOUGHT OVER WHO WOULD... MARRY WINRY.

REALLY!?

NOW LET ME ASK THE TWO OF YOU A QUES-TION.

AL TOLD ME THAT YOU TURNED US BOTH DOWN. IS THAT TRUE?

SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES! THAT WAS WHEN WE WERE AROUND FIVE YEARS OLD RIGHT?

Big brother forgot all about it.

OH, YEAH! WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT THE OTHER DAY ON TOP OF THE HOSPITAL.

READY?

HOW COME?

YUP. I RE-JECTED YOU BOTH.

I SAID, "I DON'T LIKE GUYS WHO ARE *SHORTER* THAN ME."

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT THAT, ANYWAY?

I WANT TO SEE WHAT MEMORIES AL HAS THAT I DON'T.

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY-THING ELSE?

HUFF

WHEEZE

Huh?

YOU MON-STER !!

YOU'RE A DEVIL !!

DON'T JUDGE A MAN BY HIS HEIGHT !!

EVIL WOMAN !!

YOU'RE THE WORST !!

I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY-MORE..

THAT'S ENOUGH..

How could I not have noticed?

And this one time...

AND HIS [redacted] WAS AL-

And then...

And...

Oh! And...

Oh yeah. Uh-huh.

UH-HUH. AND THEN THERE WAS THAT TIME WE [redacted] BIG BROTHER'S [redacted] WHILE HE WAS [redacted].

How could I forget?

HEY, REMEMBER WHEN WE [redacted] TO ED WITH A [redacted] WHILE HE WAS ASLEEP?

IF YOU HAVE MEMORIES FROM BEFORE THE ACCIDENT, IT MEANS THAT THE AL I BONDED TO THIS SUIT OF ARMOR ON THAT DAY MUST BE THE ***REAL*** AL.

AND ALL OF THOSE MEMORIES TOOK PLACE BEFORE YOU TURNED TEN.

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW ABOUT THOSE THINGS.

THAT SETTLES IT.

I MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE A BRAIN, SO WHERE ARE ALL YOUR MEMORIES SINCE THEN BEING STORED?

?

...BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR MEMORIES ***AFTER*** THE ACCIDENT?

THAT EXPLAINS YOUR MEMORIES FROM BEFORE YOU WERE TEN...

I HAVE A HUNCH...

...THAT AL'S BODY STILL EXISTS SOMEWHERE AND HIS BRAIN IS STILL FUNCTIONING.

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

THAT'S JUST A SYMBOL TO KEEP YOUR SOUL BOUND TO THE ARMOR.

HIS SOUL EXISTED SEPARATE FROM HIS BODY!!

OH!! LIKE BARRY THE CHOPPER !!

I THINK THAT THE ***SPIRIT*** IS WHAT CONNECTS THE ***BODY*** TO THE ***SOUL.***

ALCHEMY STATES THAT A HUMAN BEING IS COMPOSED OF THE ***BODY***, ***SOUL*** AND ***SPIRIT.***

THAT'S RIGHT.

COULD IT BE THAT AL'S SOUL AND ORIGINAL BODY ARE STILL SOMEHOW CONNECTED BY HIS SPIRIT?

THE BODY AND THE SOUL ARE DRAWN TO ONE ANOTHER.

...BECAUSE THEY'RE CONNECT-ED BY THE SPIRIT!!

YOU DIDN'T ***DIE--*** YOU WERE "***TAKEN.***"

ON THAT DAY, I UNCON-SCIOUSLY SAID, "THEY TOOK HIM."

AND THEN I PAID ANOTHER TOLL, GIVING MY RIGHT ARM TO PULL YOUR SOUL BACK OUT.

THAT GUY DEFINITELY CALLED IT A "TOLL."

YOUR BODY WAS TAKEN, NOT AS AN INGREDIENT FOR MOM'S TRANSMUTATION, BUT AS A ***TOLL*** TO PASS THROUGH THE ***PORTAL OF TRUTH.***

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PULL SOMEONE WITH NO TIES TO LIFE OUT OF THE PORTAL.

MOM IS WITH THE ***DEAD*** NOW.

WHEN I STRETCHED OUT MY HAND INSIDE THE PORTAL OF TRUTH...

IT'S A SIGN THAT YOU STILL EXIST AMONG THE ***LIVING!***

BUT, AL...

I WAS ABLE TO PULL YOUR SOUL OUT...

...IT WASN'T *MOM* I SAW IN THERE.

...WHAT DID YOU SEE? WHO WAS IT?

YOU WERE CLOSER THAN I WAS. WHEN YOU STRETCHED OUT YOUR HAND..

TRY TO REMEMBER, AL!

THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TRAPPED IN THERE!!

MOM WASN'T THERE AT ALL!!

...IT WAS ME!!

BACK THEN...

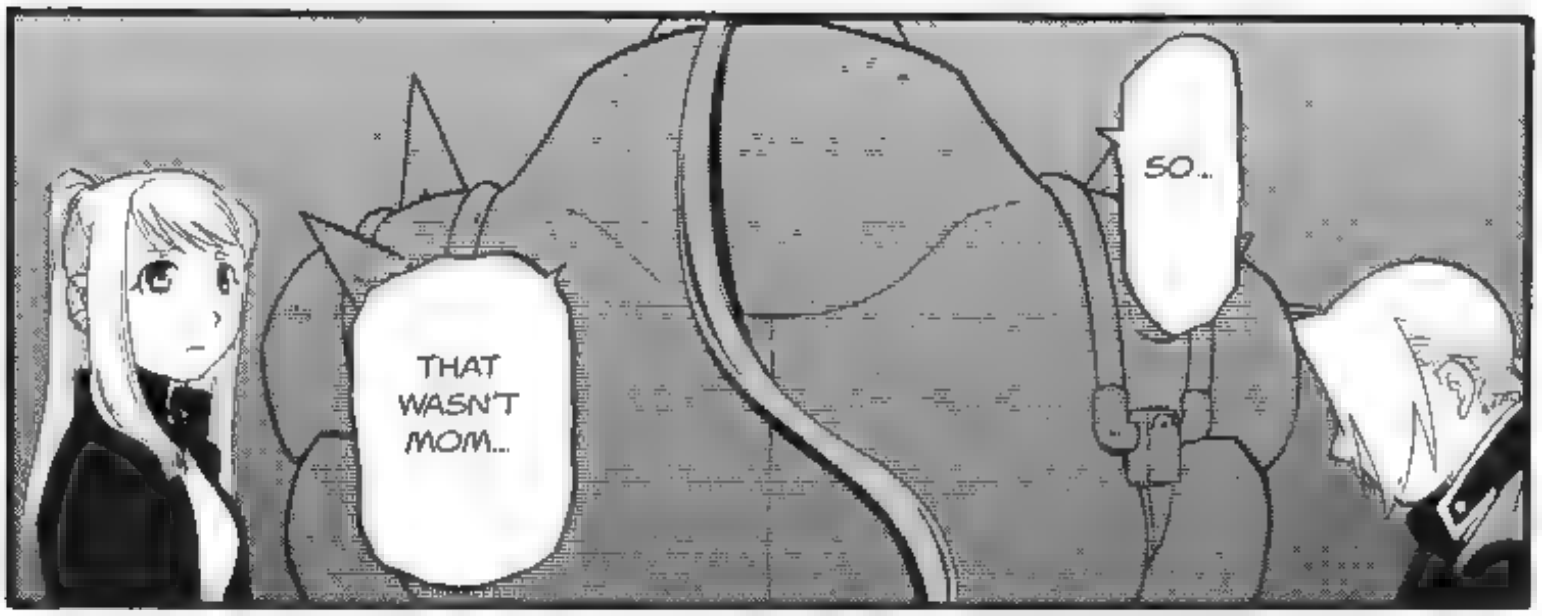
I REMEMBER NOW...

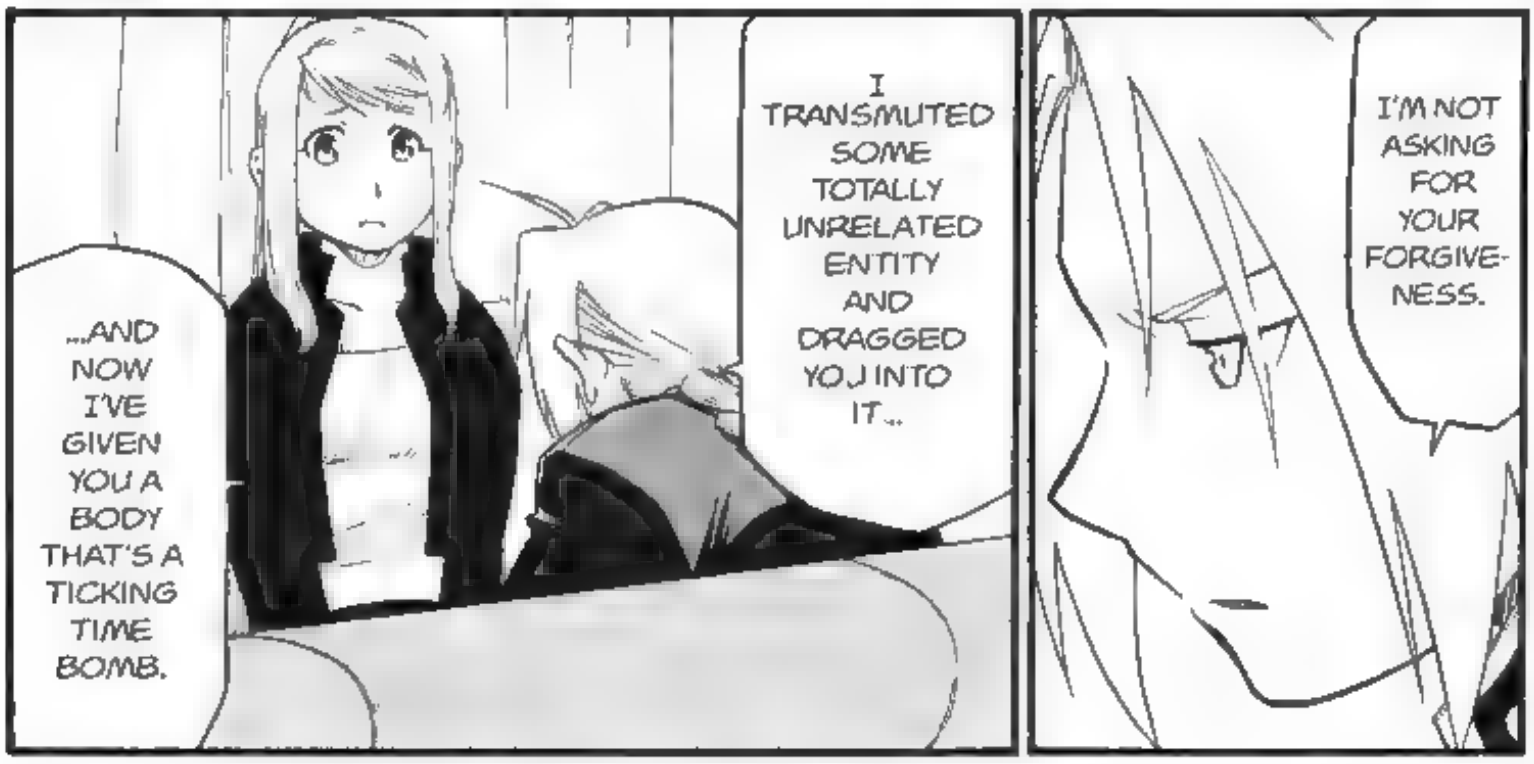
I WAS LOOKING AT YOU BIG BROTHER, THROUGH THE EYES OF WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS MOM!!

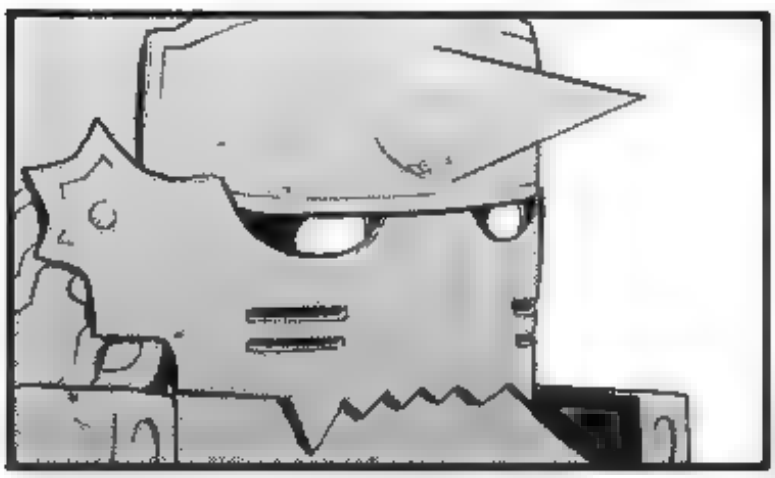
IT WAS ***LUCK*** THAT DURING THE TRAGIC INCIDENT YOUR SOUL WASN'T BOUND TO THAT ***THING***.

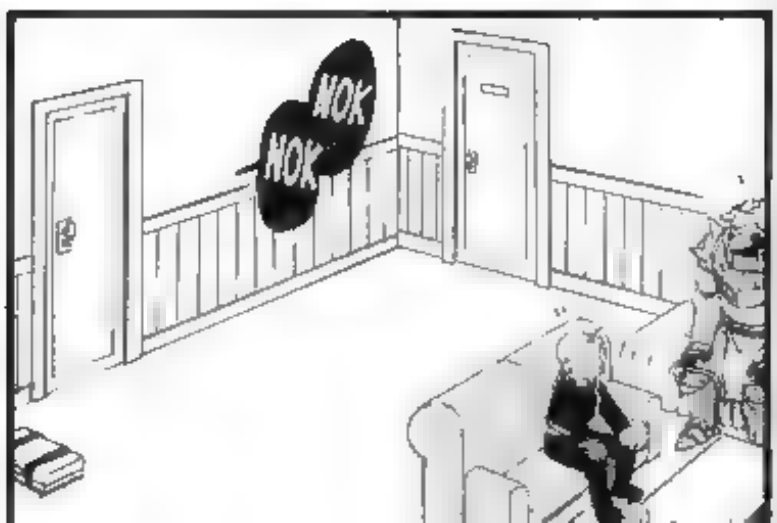
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW

...I GUESS THAT BODY REJECTED MY SOUL.


THAT WASN'T MOM...
SO...


...AND NOW I'VE GIVEN YOU A BODY THAT'S A TICKING TIME BOMB.
I TRANSMUTED SOME TOTALLY UNRELATED ENTITY AND DRAGGED YOU INTO IT...
I'M NOT ASKING FOR YOUR FORGIVE-NESS.




NOK
NOK

I...

YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM A MRS. IZUMI CURTIS.

MR. ELRIC?

HUH?

AFTER YOU CALLED, I STARTED RESEARCHING SIGS AND MY FAMILY TREES.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

I GOT THE HOTEL PHONE NUMBER FROM PINAKO.

TEACHER!?

FRONT

THAT YOU, ED?

..COULD NEVER HAVE COME FROM THE TWO OF US.

BUT THE HAIR AND SKIN COLOR OF THE CHILD THAT WAS TRANSMUTED...

WHEN I TRANSMUTED THAT CHILD, I USED A LOCK OF MY HUSBAND'S HAIR, A DROP OF MY OWN BLOOD AND MY CHILD'S ASHES.

YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING HAVEN'T YOU?

THOSE WHOSE BODIES ARE LOST TO ***DEATH***, CAN NEVER RETURN. THAT IS THE CONCLUSION I'VE COME TO.

THE DEAD...

YES.

AND I PAID THE ULTI-MATE SACRI-FICE.

BACK THEN, I THOUGHT I HAD SOLVED THE GREATEST MYSTERY OF ALCHEMY... BUT I WAS WRONG.

SINCE AL NEVER REALLY DIED, HIS BODY IS STILL ALIVE.

OKAY, THAT'S GOOD.

THANK YOU.

THE PRICE I HAD TO PAY FOR TREADING IN A LAND I HAD NO BUSINESS BEING IN.

NO. THAT WAS THE "TOLL"...

I'M SORRY.

YES?

ED!

"THANKS"
?
BIG BROTHER
?
CLICK
SHH
WHAT DID TEACHER SAY
?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT SHE SAID, "THANKS."
I THOUGHT...
..BUT I WAS AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY WHEN THINGS WENT WRONG, I BLAMED MYSELF..
...OH, OKAY.
?

IF I HADN'T DONE SOMETHING WRONG, MOM WOULD BE ALIVE AND WE'D STILL BE NORMAL. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

I THOUGHT MOM WAS TURNED INTO THAT THING BECAUSE OF ME!

THANK YOU, BIG BRO-THER.

I WASN'T THE ONE WHO KILLED MOM AFTER ALL!

I BLAMED MYSELF TOO.

IZUMI...

I DIDN'T CAUSE MY CHILD TO DIE A SECOND TIME!

I FEEL LIKE A GREAT WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SOUL.

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY...

STILL, WHAT WE DID WAS UNFOR-GIVABLE.

I DESERVE THE PUNISHMENT I RECEIVED

I STILL SEE IT IN MY DREAMS.

THERE'S NOT A DAY THAT'S GONE BY THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.

THAT TINY HAND, AWASH IN A POOL OF BLOOD.

MY BODY CAN NO LONGER BEAR CHILDREN.

THE TRUTH IS *CRUEL*, BUT *JUSTIFIED*.

AL'S BODY WAS TAKEN INTO THE VOID...

...AND ED LOST HIS LAST REMAINING FAMILY MEMBER, NOT TO MENTION THE LEG HE NEEDED TO STAND ON HIS OWN.

AND AS FOR THOSE TWO BROTHERS WHO ONLY WANTED THE WARMTH OF FAMILY...

THAT BOY...

...MAY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DEFEAT ***THE TRUTH*** ONE DAY.

BUT ED ***DID*** GET BACK ON HIS FEET.

THAT'S TRUE.

I CAN'T ~~BE~~ FORGIVEN IF I GIVE UP NOW.

I MIGHT NOT HAVE KILLED MOM, BUT I'M STILL THE ONE WHO PUT YOU IN THAT BODY.

HOTEL

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, AL, I WON'T STOP UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK.

BIG BRO-THER...

YOU ALWAYS TRY TO TAKE ALL THE BLAME YOUR-SELF.

IT'S PAINFUL TO WATCH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN ALONE.

WHAT YOU DID WAS WRONG, BUT I'M JUST AS GUILTY.

AFTER MR. HUGHES DIED, I TOLD MYSELF THAT IF GETTING MY ORIGINAL BODY BACK MEANT SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT GET HURT, I DIDN'T WANT TO PURSUE IT.

SEEING YOU SUFFER LIKE THAT...

AND THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT TREAT ME NO DIFFERENTLY THAN IF I WAS STILL HUMAN.

THEY MADE ME REALIZE THAT I CAN STILL LIVE A FULL LIFE.

I MET SOME PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T REALLY HUMAN EITHER, BUT THEY STILL MANAGED TO FIND MEANING IN THEIR EXISTENCE.

I'M NOT HANDICAPPED BY THIS BODY IF I CHOOSE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.

THIS METAL BODY IS LIKE A TIME BOMB THAT COULD FALL APART AT ANY TIME...

BUT...ARE HUMAN BEINGS MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD REALLY ANY DIFFERENT? AFTER ALL, YOU CAN NEVER PREDICT WHEN SICKNESS OR AN ACCIDENT MIGHT TAKE YOUR LIFE.

I...

...BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

I...

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY NIGHTS AWAKE AND ALONE ANYMORE !!

I WANT MY ORIGINAL BODY BACK!!

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I WANT TO RETURN TO NORMAL.

AL...

I JUST WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE AGAIN.

THAT'S ALL.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO DRAG ANYONE ELSE INTO THIS.

HA HA!

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING!

I'M GOING TO GET MY BODY BACK AND I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE ANYONE ELSE IN THE PROCESS!

...I WANT TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME!

SO, BIG BRO-THER...

WE'RE GOING TO TRACK DOWN THAT BASTARD "TRUTH"...

...AND PULL YOUR BODY BACK FROM THAT PLACE !

THERE'S NO MORE TIME TO SIT AROUND AND MOPE.

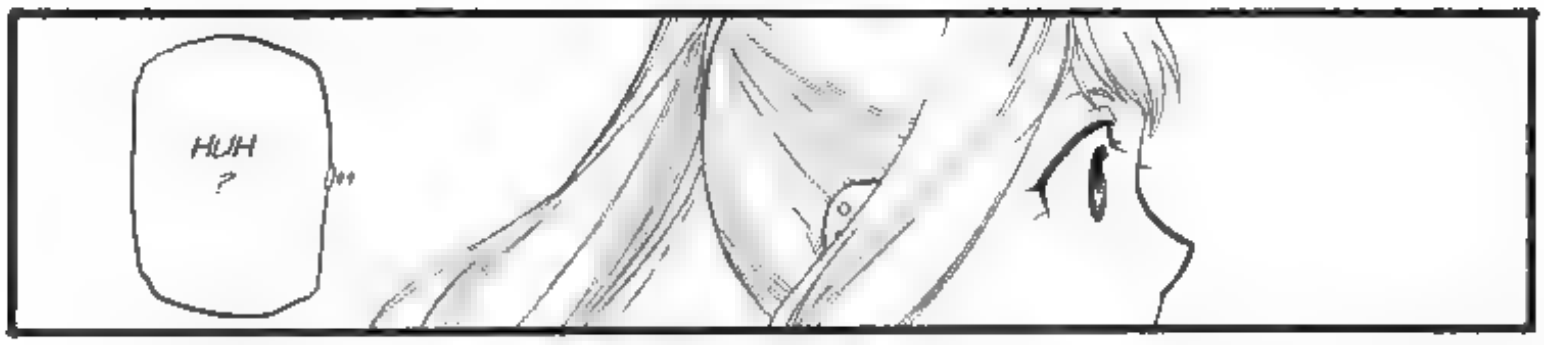
LET'S DO IT!

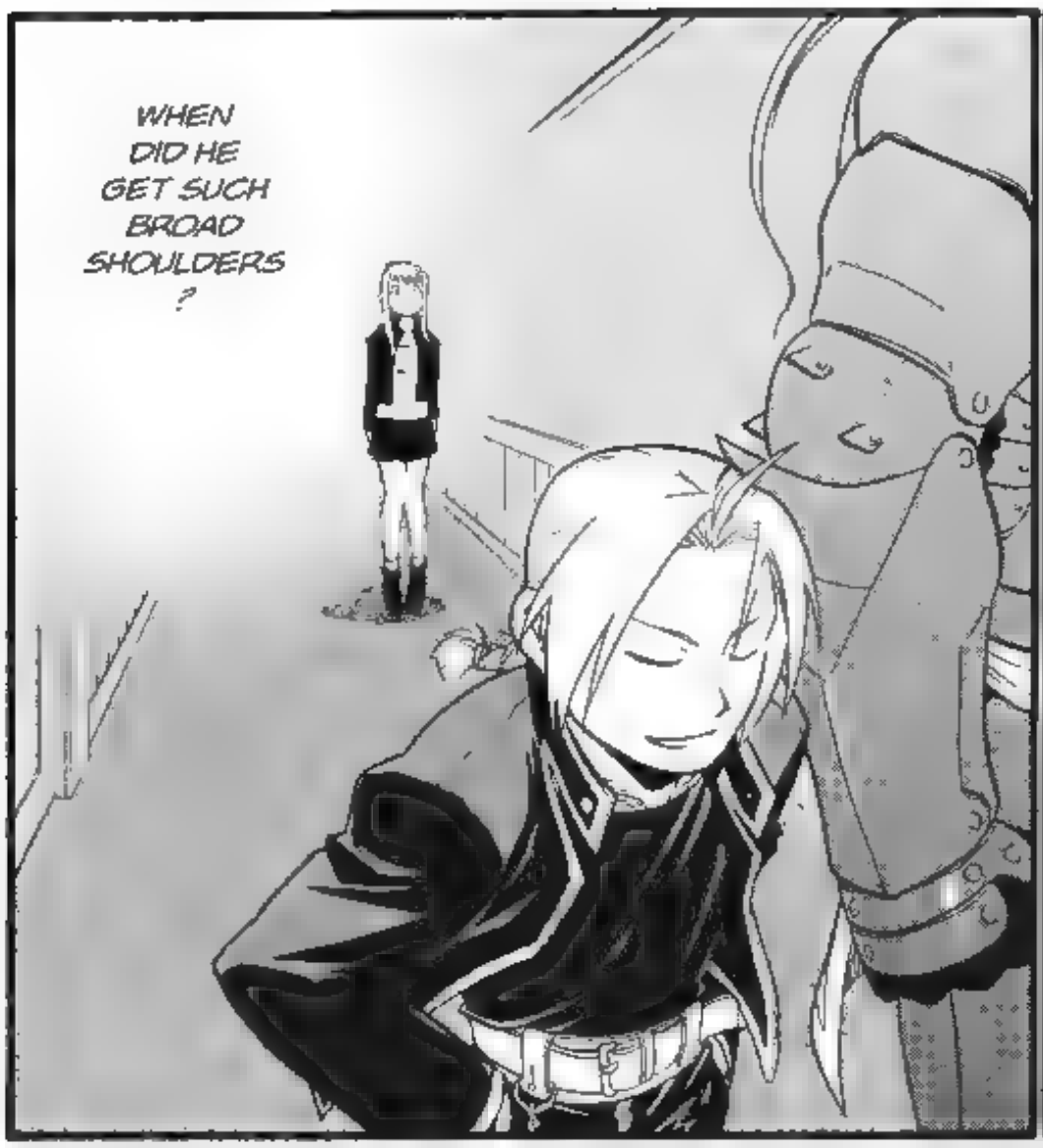
By the way, Dad came back right?

Yup. He's a real jerk.

Tup Tup Tup

...


HUH
?


WHEN DID HE GET SUCH BROAD SHOULDERS ?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE FREAKS !
HE MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO'S RESPON-SIBLE.
ONE OF THE HOMUNCULI IS A SHAPE-SHIFTER.

SO YOU ARRIVED AT DR. MAR-COH'S A MOMENT TOO LATE.

WELL THEN, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

SO WE'RE STUCK.

I CAN'T MOVE AROUND AS FREELY ANY-MORE.

I

MY MOTHER. AND SOMEONE FROM THE DISCHARGE OFFICE.

?

THEY'VE DECIDED TO HAVE ME DISCHARGED BECAUSE OF THE INJURY I RECEIVED AT THE PRISON INCIDENT.

DIS~

I CAN AT LEAST ANSWER PHONES FOR THEM.

MY FAMILY OWNS A GENERAL GOODS SHOP IN THE EAST AREA COUNTRY-SIDE

NOW, WAIT JUST A MINUTE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO AS A CIVILIAN !?

THE MILITARY HAS NO USE FOR A PAWN WHO CAN'T MOVE.

BUT THE DOCTORS STILL AREN'T CERTAIN THAT YOU CAN'T BE CURED...

I'M NOT SO STUPID, SIR, THAT I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'M NO LONGER USEFUL.

...DON'T YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

BUT- !!

SO YOU'RE JUST GIVING UP?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THESE LEGS, SIR?

MOVE ON WITHOUT ME!!

GAH

JUST FORGET ABOUT ME !!

Stop !!

HEY HOHO

DID YOU FORGET YOUR PROMISE TO COMMODORE HUGHES!?

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT A LOW-RANKING SOLDIER LIKE ME!!

I DON'T NEED... YOUR PITY !!

LOOK AT ME! I CAN'T EVEN RAISE MYSELF OUT OF BED WITHOUT SOMEONE TO HELP ME.

DON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME ON ME.

JUST CUT ME OFF...

PLEASE.

ALL RIGHT

I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

I'M MOVING ON.

I'LL LEAVE YOU BE-HIND...

...TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SOME-ONE TO CATCH UP WITH.

SEE YOU AT THE *TOP*.

SEC-OND LT. HAVOC.

THAT MAN...

HE'S A FOOL.

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN RISE TO THE TOP IN *THIS* COUNTRY BY BEING SO *SOFT*.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR AT LEAST ONE FOOL LIKE THAT IN THIS WORLD.

HE DIDN'T FORSAKE ME WHEN I'D GIVEN UP ON LIFE.

AND THEN HE ASKED ME TO KEEP PRO-TECTING HIS BACK.

HE'S NOT *CAPABLE* OF GIVING UP ON ANYONE.

BOX

OW

KLAK

DUST

DUST BOX

PLEASE DON'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.

YOU'LL REOPEN YOUR WOUND.

SIR, YOU'RE STILL IN NO CONDITION TO CHECK OUT OF HERE...

JUST BRING IT!

BRING ME MY UNI-FORM.

...YES, SIR.

HMH?

Sergeant Brosh.

OH, MAJOR, ARE YOU BACK FROM YOUR VACATION!?

STRIDE STRIDE STRIDE

?

PAT

THE EAST WAS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

HRM...

"Everything shows on the sergeant's face, so please don't tell him!"

THIS NOTICE JUST ARRIVED FROM MILITARY HQ.

OH, MAJOR! YOU SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME!

EDWARD ELRIC MIGHT STILL BE AT THE HOTEL! LET HIM KNOW RIGHT AWAY!

YES, SIR!

CONTACT COLONEL MUSTANG AT ONCE!

IT CONCERNS ALL HIGH-RANKING ALCHEMISTS.

TO ALL PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL CITY...

CRMPL

Who is?

It's him...

Hang in there!

HE HAS KILLED THREE NEW VICTIMS...

ALL OF THEM STATE ALCHEMISTS.

THE MAN KNOWN AS "SCAR," WHO WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE DIED IN EAST CITY, HAS REAPPEARED.

ACCORDING TO THE MPS WHO SPOTTED HIM, HE IS A WELL-BUILT ISHBALAN MALE WITH A CROSS-SHAPED SCAR ACROSS HIS FOREHEAD...

ON HIS RIGHT ARM HE HAS A...

MAN WITH A SCAR...

AND AN INTRICATE TATTOO THAT COVERS HIS ENTIRE RIGHT ARM.

ALL PERSON-NEL ARE TO...

SO YOU PLAN TO STAND IN OUR WAY ONCE AGAIN...

...SCAR.

I SAID, WHO ARE THEY?

YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR A WHOLE WEEK! I WAS GETTING WORRIED.

OH! SIR, YOU'RE BACK!

.....

WHO ARE THEY?

ttty bitty!

I'M MAY CHANG. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SIR.

GLARE

MAS TER?

I AM HERE TO REPAY MY DEBT TO HIM.

YOUR MASTER, MR. YOKI, WAS KIND ENOUGH TO SAVE MY LIFE.

BOW BOW

KYU?

YOUR DEBT'S FOR-GIVEN.

NOW, GET OUT OF HERE.

THE DRAGON WAVES...

A TECH-NIQUE BASED ON KNOW-LEDGE OF THE EARTH'S FLOW.

THAT TATTOO IS USED TO CONTROL THE FLOW IT'S THE FOUNDATION OF THE PURIFICATION ARTS IN MY COUNTRY.

THOSE ARE SYMBOLS OF THE PURIFI-CATION ARTS!

WHAT IS YOUR OLDER BROTHER DOING NOW?
THIS IS THE RESULT OF HIS RESEARCH.
MY BROTHER BECAME INTERESTED IN ALCHEMY AFTER READING TEXTS GIVEN TO HIM BY A TRAVELER FROM XING.
ARE YOU FROM XING?
YES.
HE WAS KILLED BY A STATE ALCHEMIST.
HE'S DEAD.

Chapter 45
Scar's Return

...IT'S ROTTEN?

WHAT IF...

Big brother! Winry!

EVEN IF I DO GET MY BODY BACK, WHAT IF IT'S STARTING TO ROT AND FALL APART LIKE BARRY THE CHOPPERS!?

AAAAAAAH!

WHEREVER MY BODY IS, IT'S NOT GETTING ANY NUTRIENTS, IS IT!?

AND IT'S NOT GETTING ANY SLEEP EITHER, RIGHT!?

HM.

HUH!? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, ED!?!

THIS IS JUST A HYPOTHESIS, BUT...

AND THEN WE WERE TAKEN TO THAT PLACE, WE WERE BOTH "DECON-STRUCTED."

...WHEN WE TRIED TO TRANSMUTE MOM, YOU AND I MIXED OUR BLOOD, REMEMBER?

UH-HUH.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

I'M JUST SAYING THAT I'M HERE AND YOU'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE BUT MAYBE WE'RE STILL CONNECTED SOMEHOW.

SO MAYBE, IN THE PROCESS, OUR SPIRITS CROSSED.

SH..

SHO...

FOR MY AGE I'M PRETTY SHO...

I MEAN...

HE CONFRONTED HIS OWN TRAUMA.

HE ADMITTED IT!!

SHORT

...

THE REASON YOU'RE NOT GROWING IS BECAUSE YOU DON'T DRINK MILK!

NOT MILK AGAIN!!

IT'S NOT RIDICULOUS!!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOUR BODY IS PROVIDING NUTRITION FOR AL'S BODY, TOO, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO SMALL?

IT CAN'T BE... BUT...

COULD HE BE SLEEPING FOR MY BODY TOO?

HEH HEH..

I HOPE IT'S TRUE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

...BIG BROTHER DOES SLEEP AN AWFUL LOT.

CLINK

THAT'S RIGHT! THE TWO OF US TOGETHER MAKES ONE PERSON!

AFTER ALL, WE'RE BROTHERS! WE SHARE THE SAME BLOOD.

WHY D'YA HAVE TO DRAG MILK INTO THIS!?

AND YOU HAVE TO DRINK *MILK*!

SINCE YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF US BOTH, BIG BROTHER, MAKE SURE YOU EAT RIGHT AND GET ENOUGH SLEEP!

SO, WHEN AL IS RETURNED TO NORMAL, I'LL GROW TALLER TOO!

THINGS ARE FINALLY LOOKING UP!

I'M SO GLAD YOU GUYS ARE BACK TO-GETHER!

AND I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, SO QUIT NAGGING!

I *AM* GROWING, EVEN IF IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT!

A little at a time!

You're like a little kid.

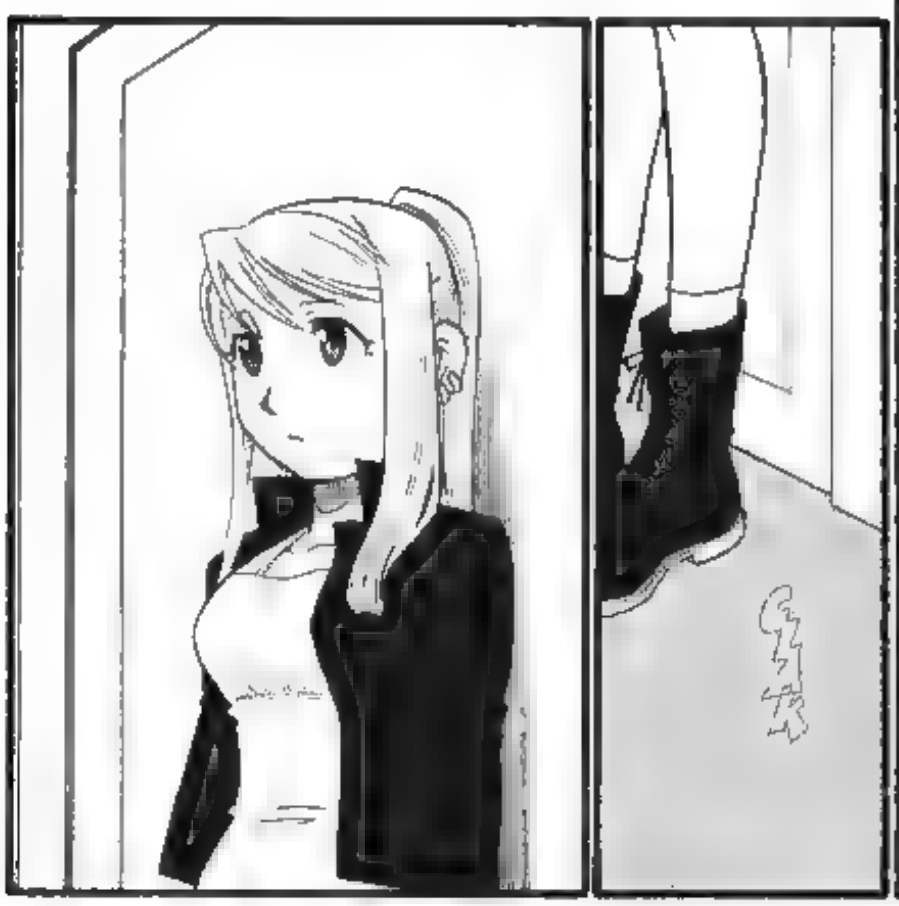
BO NK

AND THAT TEMPER OF YOURS COULD BE A SIGN OF CALCIUM DEFICIENCY.

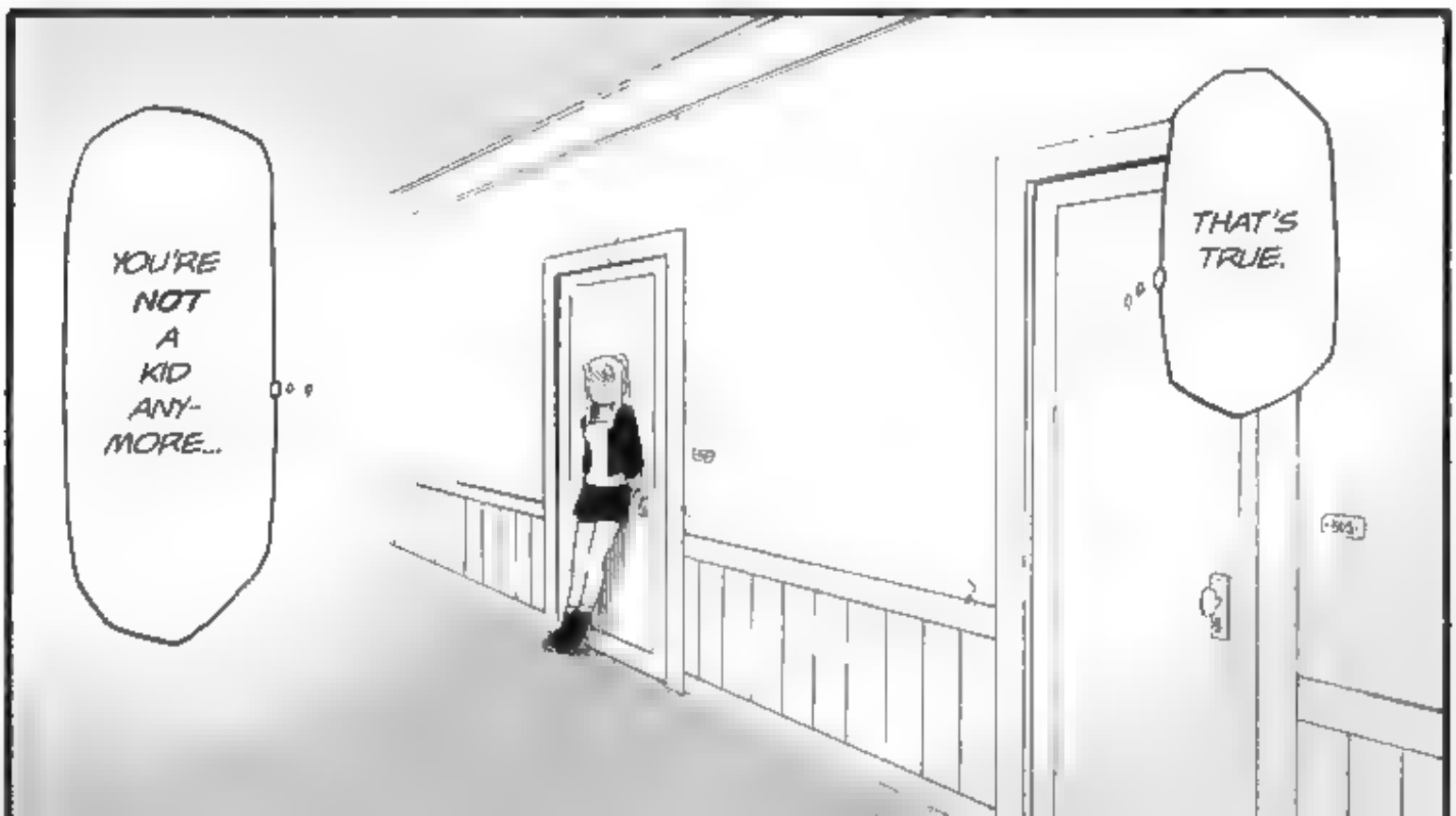
HA HA!

I GUESS THIS MEANS I CAN GO BACK TO MR. GARFIEL'S TOMORROW.

HA HA HA



I GOTTA GO BACK TO MY ROOM AND PACK.
SEE YA.
OKAY.


YOU'RE NOT A KID ANY-MORE...
THAT'S TRUE.

OUR PROBLEM NOW IS HOW TO OPEN THE PORTAL.

YUP.

UH-HUH.

BUT WHAT CAN WE SACRIFICE THIS TIME?

WE COULD DO IT IF WE PAY THE PROPER TOLL...

I... I KNOW !

YOU CAN'T DO THAT! WE PROMISED EACH OTHER THAT WE'D ***BOTH*** GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK!

!

YOU'RE THINKING, "WHAT'S ANOTHER LIMB OR TWO?" AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE MADE A PROMISE.

THAT'S TRUE...

BUT THAT THING IS MADE WITH *HUMAN LIVES!!*

THERE'S ALWAYS THE *PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...*

...

!

THEY CALLED US "PRECIOUS HUMAN SACRIFICES"-- THAT'S WHY THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO DIE.

...THAT REMINDS ME

SHE SAID THAT ONLY THOSE WITH THE POWER TO OPEN THE PORTAL ARE CHOSEN AS SACRIFICES.

THAT'S RIGHT.

DO THEY PLAN TO MAKE US OPEN THE PORTAL FOR SOME REASON? THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM.

IN MY CASE, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ME BACK.

SO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH THE STRENGTH TO CROSS OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE AND COME BACK?

BUT THEN WHY DID THE PRESIDENT ANNIHILATE GREED AND HIS CHIMERAS?

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO BE AWARE OF SUCH A LARGE-SCALE OPERATION.

IS IT THE MILITARY'S RESEARCH BRANCH?

FIRST OF ALL, WHO ***CREATED*** THE HOMUNCULI?

WHO GIVES THEM ***ORDERS***?

BUT IT ALL WORKED OUT FOR US IN THE END.

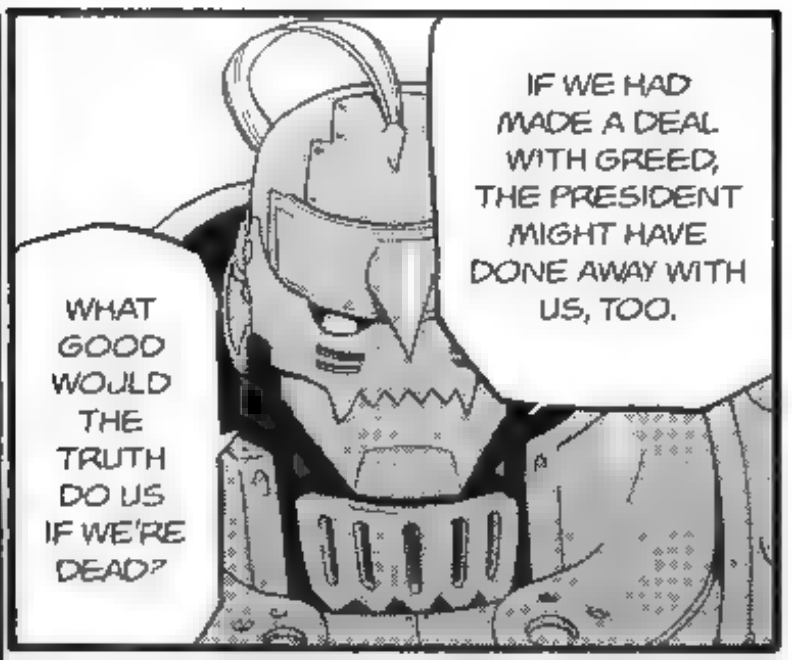
I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY!!

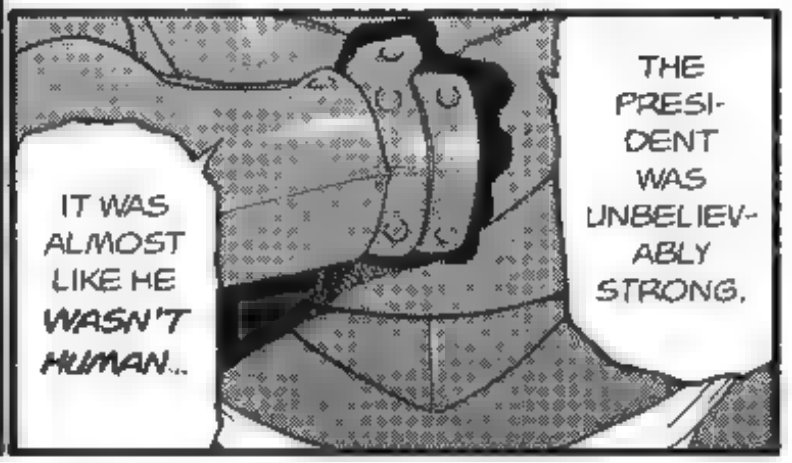
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TURNED DOWN GREED'S OFFER TO MAKE A DEAL!!

ARRGH!!

DID GREED REBEL AGAINST THE OTHERS?

WHAT IF HE'S A HOMUN-CULUS ?

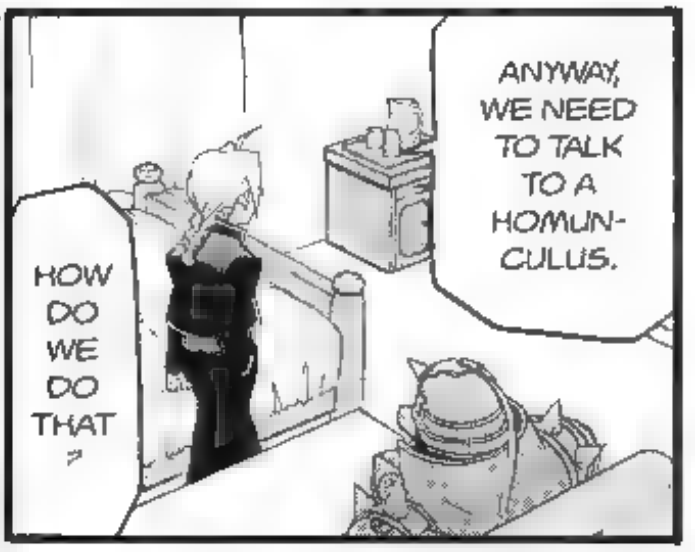

IF WE HAD MADE A DEAL WITH GREED, THE PRESIDENT MIGHT HAVE DONE AWAY WITH US, TOO.
WHAT GOOD WOULD THE TRUTH DO US IF WE'RE DEAD?


THE PRESI-DENT WAS UNBELIEV-ABLY STRONG.
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HE WASN'T HUMAN...

SIGH...

HA HA HA HA HA
THAT'S A LAUGH !!
YEAH RIGHT !!

ONE STEP AT A TIME.


ANYWAY, WE NEED TO TALK TO A HOMUN-CULUS.
HOW DO WE DO THAT ?

CLINK

I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT TO USE THE PRIVILEGES OF MY OFFICE FROM TIME TO TIME...

EVEN AT THIS HOUR, WHEN I TOLD THEM THAT I'M A STATE ALCHEMIST, THEY LET ME LOOK AROUND WITHOUT ANY FUSS.

Having power is great!!

HOW DID IT GO?

I THINK IT *USED* TO BE THERE-- IT WAS JUST SEALED UP.

NO, I THINK YOUR MAP IS RIGHT.

WHAT!? DID I MAKE A MISTAKE!?

IT WASN'T THERE

DID YOU FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNELS?

THERE WERE FAINT TRACES OF TRANS-MUTATION MARKS.

SO...

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO FIND A HOMUN-CULUS ?

CRUMP

I GUESS THEY'RE NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO LEAVE AN ENTRANCE IN PLAIN VIEW.

WHAT IS IT?

HUFF WHEEZE

THANK GOODNESS I FOUND YOU! WHEN I WENT TO THE HOTEL, THEY TOLD ME THAT YOU'D BE OVER HERE.

HUH? SGT. BROSH ?

EDWARD !

IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN ASSIGN GUARDS TO YOUR ROOM.

YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE HOTEL RIGHT AWAY.

I'M IN THE PROCESS OF ALERTING ALL STATE ALCHEMISTS WITHIN THE CITY.

YOU NEED TO GO SOME-WHERE SAFE!

WHAT !?

SCAR IS ALIVE.

HE'S ISHBALAN, AND HE HAS A TATTOO THAT COVERS HIS ENTIRE RIGHT ARM.

HE HAS AN X-SHAPED STAR ACROSS HIS FORE-HEAD.

YES, IT'S NEW INFOR-MATION.

SGT., THIS IS...

HE WAS AN ISHBALAN WARRIOR WITH A TATTOO ON HIS RIGHT ARM.

COULDN'T SEE HIS FACE BECAUSE IT WAS COVERED IN BANDAGES.

I NEED TO TELL YOU SOME-THING.

AL...

SCAR...

NO...

I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY.

SCAR KILLED WINRY'S PARENTS !?

ME NEI-THER.

...I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER CRY ANYMORE.

BIG BROTHER, YOU CAN'T TELL WINRY ABOUT THIS.

HOW COULD I!?

ARE YOU GOING TO ASK HIM ABOUT WINRY'S PARENTS?

IN ANY CASE, WE'LL HAVE TO CONFRONT SCAR ONCE AGAIN.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO LET ME DIE.

THEY CALLED ME THEIR "PRECIOUS HUMAN SACRIFICE" AND SAID THAT THEY WERE "LETTING ME LIVE."

THAT TOO, BUT THERE'S ONE OTHER THING...

THEN THEY'LL SHOW THEM-SELVES?

IF MY LIFE IS PUT IN DANGER BECAUSE OF SCAR...

I'M GOING TO LURE OUT THE HOMUN-CULI.

IT'S BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING!

SEEMS LIKE A LONG SHOT.

I... I... I'LL THINK OF SOME-THING! ...I HOPE.

EVEN IF THE HOMUNCULI SHOW THEM-SELVES, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO CATCH ONE?

WE'RE A LOT STRONGER THAN WE USED TO BE!!

BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR SCAR TO OVERPOWER US LAST TIME. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE HIM?

ERGH !!

DON'T WORRY! I OVER-HEARD EVERY-THING !

TA—DA!

EVER SINCE I GOT KICKED OUT OF MY ROOM.

BWOOOOOOOH

LIN!! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE!?

COME NOW! WE'RE ***FRIENDS***, RIGHT? I JUST WANT TO ***HELP*** YOU, OF COURSE! ♡

WHAT ARE YOU ***SCHEMING*** ?

I SHALL HELP YOU WITH YOUR PLAN.

WHAT !?

YOU GUYS LURE THEM OUT...

...WE'LL DETECT THEIR PRESENCE, SET UP AN AMBUSH AND THEN GRAB ONE.

IF WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH, THE TWO OF US CAN DETECT THEIR PRESENCE.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL CUT THE CRAP.

I WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET OF THE HOMUNCULI TOO.

SO HOW ABOUT IT?

WILL YOU LET US CATCH ONE ?

WE'VE BATTLED THEM BEFORE SO IT'LL BE EASIER FOR US TO CATCH THEM.

AGREED!

A JOINT EFFORT, HUH!?

UM, BIG BRO-THER...

THIS IS LIN'S ROOM SERVICE BILL.

A MEAL?

JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T RUN OFF ONCE YOU'VE CAUGHT YOUR HOMUNCULUS!

YOU HAVE MY WORD.

PLUS, I OWE YOU A MEAL.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS, A BUNCH OF KIDS!?

KEEP IT DOWN!!

BAAAM!!

KA

THAT'S MORE THAN JUST ONE MEAL!!

KRASH

...OH...

OH YEAH... YOU'RE GOING BACK TO RUSH VALLEY TOMORR--

I HAVE TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW, SO KEEP IT DOWN!!

I'LL PROB-ABLY BREAK IT.

YEAH.

MY ARM MIGHT GET BROKEN.

YOU KNOW WELL, IT'S JUST THAT.

ALL RIGHT ?

UH...

WHY THE HURRY ?

RUSH VALLEY CAN WAIT A FEW DAYS. THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO SEE AND DO HERE IN CENTRAL CITY!

HUH ?

So this is the spirit?

Oh... Oh...

Is this his soul !?

Big brother !

SO YOU'RE PLANNING TO BREAK IT!?!

I'M VERY SORRY. I'LL PAY FOR THE DAM-AGES.

MY SHOP IS RUINED !

YOU IDIOT! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE !?

...EDWARD ELRIC TO THE RESCUE !!

STATE ALCHE-MIST...

TA-DUM!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED SOME HELP !!

IT'LL TAKE WEEKS TO REBUILD. WHAT'LL I DO...?

DUM DADDY

DUM DADDY

BZZZTSH

...CAN BE FIXED IN A JIFFY !!

WHOA!

FEAR NOT, GOOD SHOPKEEP! DAMAGE LIKE THIS...

CLAP

HA HA HA HA HA

OH MY, REALLY ?

I WOULDN'T DREAM OF TAKING PAYMENT !

YOU DID IT, KID !!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH !

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY YOU?

PAY ME ?

BZZ

NOT A PROBLEM, MA'AM !

COULD YOU FIX IT FOR ME?

I BROKE MY PRECIOUS VASE.

SNAPPP

COOL!

FZOOSH!!

WHOA!

OHH

FZZT

YEEAAAAAH!!

...STATE ALCHEMIST!! IF YOU WANT ME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME!

Fix this for me!

Fix this!

Fix that!

I'M EDWARD ELRIC...

Allow me to fix it for you with my alchemy.

Miss, your sandal is broken...

I GUESS THERE ARE SOME GOOD ALCHEMISTS OUT THERE

IF HE'S SO GREAT, LETS SEE HIM TRANSMUTE US SOME GOLD.

THIS ELRIC IS THE YOUNGEST STATE ALCHEMIST EVER.

I THOUGHT THOSE DOGS OF THE MILITARY JUST TOOK TAXPAYERS' MONEY FOR THEIR OWN RESEARCH. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM HELPING PEOPLE.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT ALCHEMIST?

THEY SAY HE HELPS PEOPLE AND ASKS FOR NOTHING IN RETURN

YOUR FATHER, THE PRESIDENT, ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER YOUR STUDIES, NOT FILL YOUR HEAD WITH NONSENSE.

IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, SELIM!

TEACHER!!

EDWARD THE LITTLE ALCHEMIST IS HERE IN THE CITY!?

NOW, PLEASE OPEN YOUR BOOK TO PAGE 83!

I HAVE TO !!

THE LITTLE GUY !

THE LITTLE ALCHE-MIST!

PAM PAM

I WANNA MEET THE LITTLE ALCHE-MIST.

OF COURSE, BECAUSE YOU WERE SO FLAMBOYANT ABOUT IT!

Wipe your nose.

THE WHOLE CITY IS TALKING ABOUT ME!

I'm the man!

ACHOO !!

SKREECH

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT UNTIL YOUR NAME REACHES HIS EARS.

TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE !

THE TRAP IS SET FOR SCAR AND I'M GETTING FAMOUS.

Not the ears I wanted to reach...

YOU'RE BEHAVING MOST OUT OF CHARACTER.

I SEE...

I HEARD ABOUT SECOND LT. HAVOC TOO.

...

SECOND LT. ROSS TOLD ME EVERY-THING.

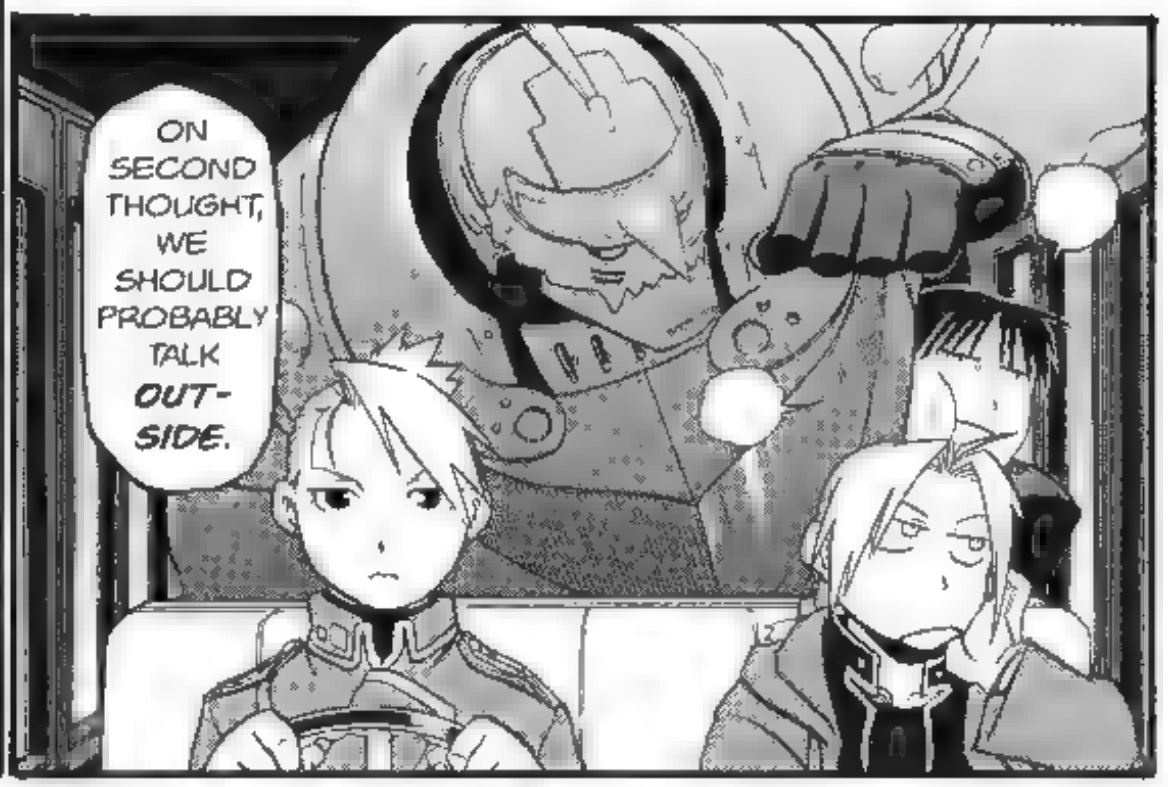
THAT'S GOOD.

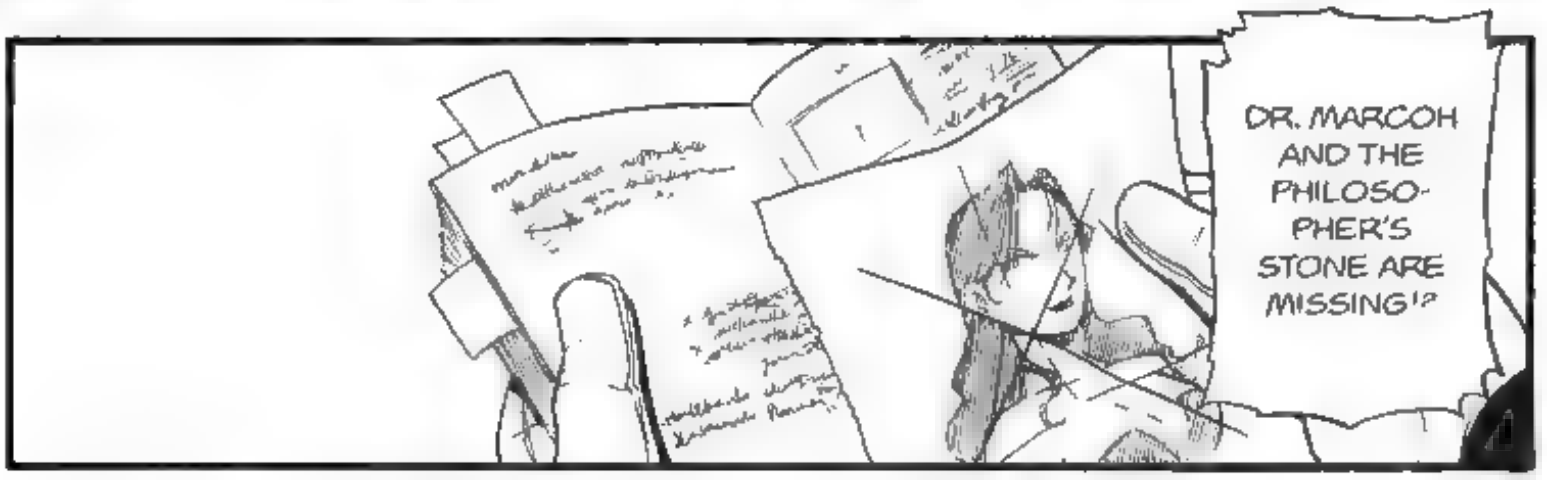
WE'LL EX-CHANGE INFOR-MATION.

GET IN.

WAIT.

COULDN'T DR. MARCOH CURE HIM?


ON SECOND THOUGHT, WE SHOULD PROBABLY TALK OUT-SIDE.


DR. MARCOH AND THE PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE ARE MISSING!?

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, THE HOMUNCULI, THE MILITARY'S DARK SIDE, ISHBAL...
HOW ARE THEY ALL CON-NECTED ?

DR. MARCOH USED TO MAKE STONES FOR THE MILITARY IN THEIR LABS.
HE SAID THAT THE STONES WERE USED IN ISHBAL.

THEY MUST'VE TAKEN HIM CAPTIVE.
BUT WHY !?

WHAT *HAPPENED* IN ISHBAL IF

FULL-METAL...

THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING ON THESE PAST FEW DAYS, IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGHT YOU *WANT* HIM TO FIND YOU.

I *DO* WANT HIM TO FIND ME.

SPEAKING OF ISHBAL, I HEARD THAT *SCAR* IS AROUND

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

DON'T UNDER ESTIMATE ME! EVEN WITH THESE INJURIES, I'LL TAKE ON HIM AND YOU BOTH!

HEH

WELL YOU MUST BE, CUZ LAST TIME YOU WERE PRETTY USELESS, "LORD COLONEL"!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE *AFRAID* OF SCAR?

HEH

I NEED TO FIGHT HIM ONCE MORE.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! DID YOU FORGET THE BATTLE AT EAST CITY!?

!

CHAK

REALLY YOU LOOK WORN OUT ALREADY

YOU'RE JUST EXTRA BAGGAGE

SHUT UP

AAH

HE'S HERE !!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, COLONEL? YOU'RE DRENCHED AND IT'S NOT EVEN RAINING!

LOOKS LIKE HE ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION, FULLMETAL.

HOLD IT, LIEUTENANT !!

FINISH

CRIK

I'M GOING TO TAKE A LEAF FROM THE COLONEL'S BOOK AND DO SOME FISHING!!

DON'T SHOOT !!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT !?

KICK

KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRA

THE HOMUNCULUS CAN'T AFFORD TO LET BIG BROTHER DIE.

WE'RE GOING TO LURE OUT THE HOMUNCULI BY USING BIG BROTHER AS BAIT.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, COLONEL.

DID HE SAY "FISHING"?

THE ONLY WAY IT CAN WORK IS FOR ME OR BIG BROTHER TO BECOME THE BAIT!!

...AND WE'RE NOT LETTING ANYONE ELSE BE A VICTIM IN THE PROCESS!!

THAT'S INSANE...

WE'VE DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD...

"LORD COLONEL," YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

WELL THEN...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF SCAR IS SHOT DOWN BY THE MPS BEFORE THE HOMUNCULI APPEAR?

YOU'RE GAMBLING YOUR LIVES ON VERY LOW ODDS.

YOU BOYS HAVE A LOT OF NERVE !

YOU'RE GIVING *ME* ORDERS ?

CLAP

HYAAAAA!!

WHEN YOU CATCH YOUR HOMUNCULUS, MAKE SURE TO GIVE ME A SHARE OF THE SPOILS!

ROGER THAT !!

VOO

OSH!

CENTRAL CITY MILITARY COMMAND! WE ARE CONFI-SCATING YOUR VEHICLE!

YES, SIR.

MASTER SGT. FUERY'S "OTHER HOUSE" IS HERE.

LET'S MOVE!

THIS PLACE!

IT'S PERFECT!

AND SO IT BEGINS.

SWISH

OKAY THEN.

COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE...

THA-THNK!

DON'T SHOOT!! YOU'LL HIT MY BROTHER!

THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO MOVE ASIDE!

YOU TWO, STAND ASIDE!

WHO OSH

WHOA!!

AND TRYING TO FIGHT THIS GUY WITHOUT GETTING TOO CLOSE OR TOO FAR AWAY...

IF SCAR GETS SHOT, THE WHOLE PLAN WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.

HURRY UP AND FIND THE HOMUNCULI, LIN!!

...IS WEARING ME OUT!!

THAT FUERY'S REALLY SOME-THING ELSE.

HERE IT IS!

THE FRE-QUENCY FOR THE MILITARY POLICE HQ...

OH NO! THERE HE IS!

HE'S COMING THIS WAY! AGH!

FSHH

I REPEAT, REQUESTING IMMEDIATE REINFORCE-MENTS!

RE-QUESTING IMMEDIATE REIN-FORCE-MENTS!

HQ. THIS IS CENTRAL CITY MP, SECTOR 3 PATROL

WE ARE UNDER ATTACK FROM SCAR!

HA HA HA HA. THIS IS GETTING FUN!!

ALL RIGHT! SECTOR 17 IS NEXT!

COLONEL DOUGLAS! HE'S BEEN SIGHTED IN SECTOR 8 AS WELL!

THERE'S *THREE* OF HIM!?

THEN WHO'S IN SECTOR 3!?

WHAT'S GOING ON!?! SCAR IS IN SECTOR 1?!?

THE BOY IS A STATE ALCHEMIST!! DO NOT FIRE!!

SCAR AND THE BOY ARE IN COMBAT!!

THIS IS THE CENTRAL CITY MP HQ, CALLING SECTOR 8.

GLUT TONY

KLAK KLAK KLAK

BABABABA

TMP

I SMELL IT! I SMELL IT!

LOOM

FALSE REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM EVERY-WHERE.

Please confirm

THERE'S A FOURTH SCAR NOW?

This is sector 3!!

FLASH

THE SCENT OF THE ISHBALAN I NEVER GOT TO EAT!!

HE'S OVER THERE !!

THEY'RE HERE !!

CRASH

GUSH

WASH

"RRRGH...

GRMBMBL

KNK

!!

CLAP

MERCY ME!

BIG BRO-THER !!

WILL HE DESTROY MY BODY OR MY AUTO-MAIL?

WHICH WILL IT BE!?

KA

BAM

BLOOD

HUH...
!?

GWOOOOOOSH

OW
!!

YOU NEGATED THE DESTRUCTION ENERGY !?

YOU'RE SO RECKLESS !!

PHEW !!

I LUCKED OUT !!

A TATTOO ON HIS RIGHT ARM!

...!!

YOU BAS-TARD...

COULD YOU REALLY HAVE KILLED WINRY'S-!?

WHAM

THUD

TWIRL

TWIRL

SKKKKID

HI THERE! HOW'S IT GOING?

ARE YOU BY YOURSELF TODAY?

HM IS

YOUR PRESENCE IS MOST DISTINCTIVE. ANYWHERE YOU RUN, I CAN TRACK YOU DOWN.

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.

THAT MUST BE HOW YOU IDENTIFIED ENVY.

HM...

SO YOU CAN SENSE ITS PRESENCE.

JUST HOW MANY ARE THERE INSIDE OF YOU?

SH ING

I MUST ELIMI-NATE IT!

IT IS A TROUBLE-SOME ABILITY.

YOU..

..I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH A HUMAN

LEAVE--

!

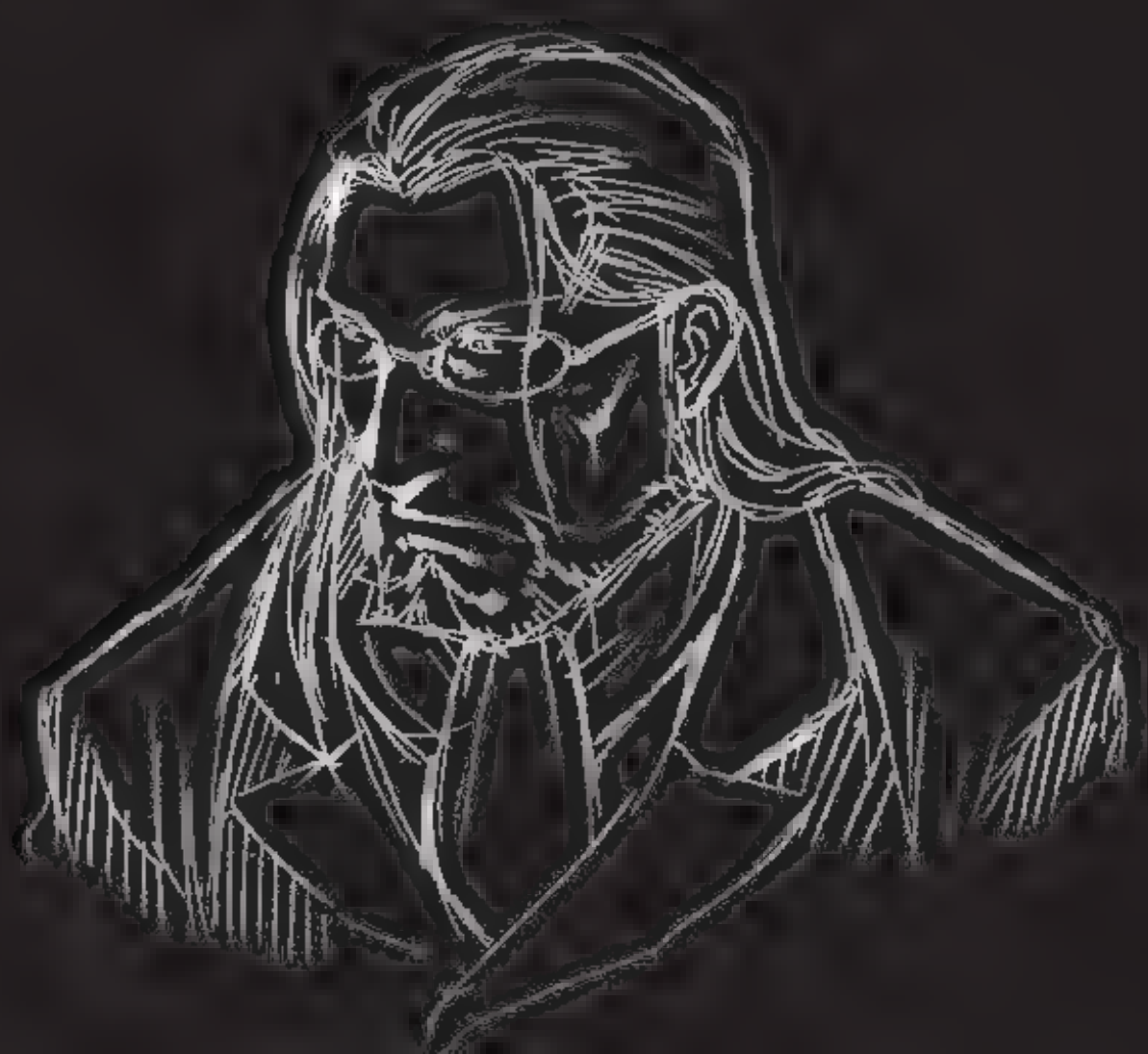
!?

WHOOSH

SLICE

LANFAN, RUN!!!

To be continued in
Fullmetal Alchemist vol. 12...



FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST II

SPECIAL THANKS

KEISUI TAKAEDA
SANKICHI HINODEYA
JUN TOKO
AIYABALL
NONO
YOICHI KAMITONO
EDITOR YOICHI SHIMOMURA

AND YOU!!

Return Of The Bastard.
(Gift Included)

They keep saying that I'm 29 years old...
...But if the creator was paying any attention, she'd know I should've already turned 30 in the story by now.
CLINK
HMM...

I'VE CAUGHT YOU, HOMUNCULUS!!

WELL DONE!!

I FOUND THE ISHBALAN!!

SH

LURP

THOSE WITH RAGE IN THEIR HEARTS SEEK THE TRUTH!!

HELLO...

...FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST.

The Elric brothers, the military and the Great Xing Empire! Three powers team up to trap the ultimate prey! But the homunculi have overpowering abilities! What sacrifice will Ed and the others need to make in order to unlock the secrets of the homunculi!?

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST VOL. 12

DON'T MISS IT!

ZOOM!

Hey...wait... At least knock, Mom!!
Truth, I brought you a snack..
creeak
He has a mom!?

In Memoriam

Coo Coo CA-CHoo!
Subway
Central City Metro
Too Extreme!
Foosh!

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST ⑪

Hiromu Arakawa

Translation: Akira Watanabe

English Adaptation: Jake Forbes
Touch-up Art & Lettering: Wayne Truman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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